



DEATH OF SPIDER-MAN: PRELUDE

BENDIS • LAFUENTE • PICHELLI • CASAGRANDE • PONSOR

SPIDER-MAN[®]

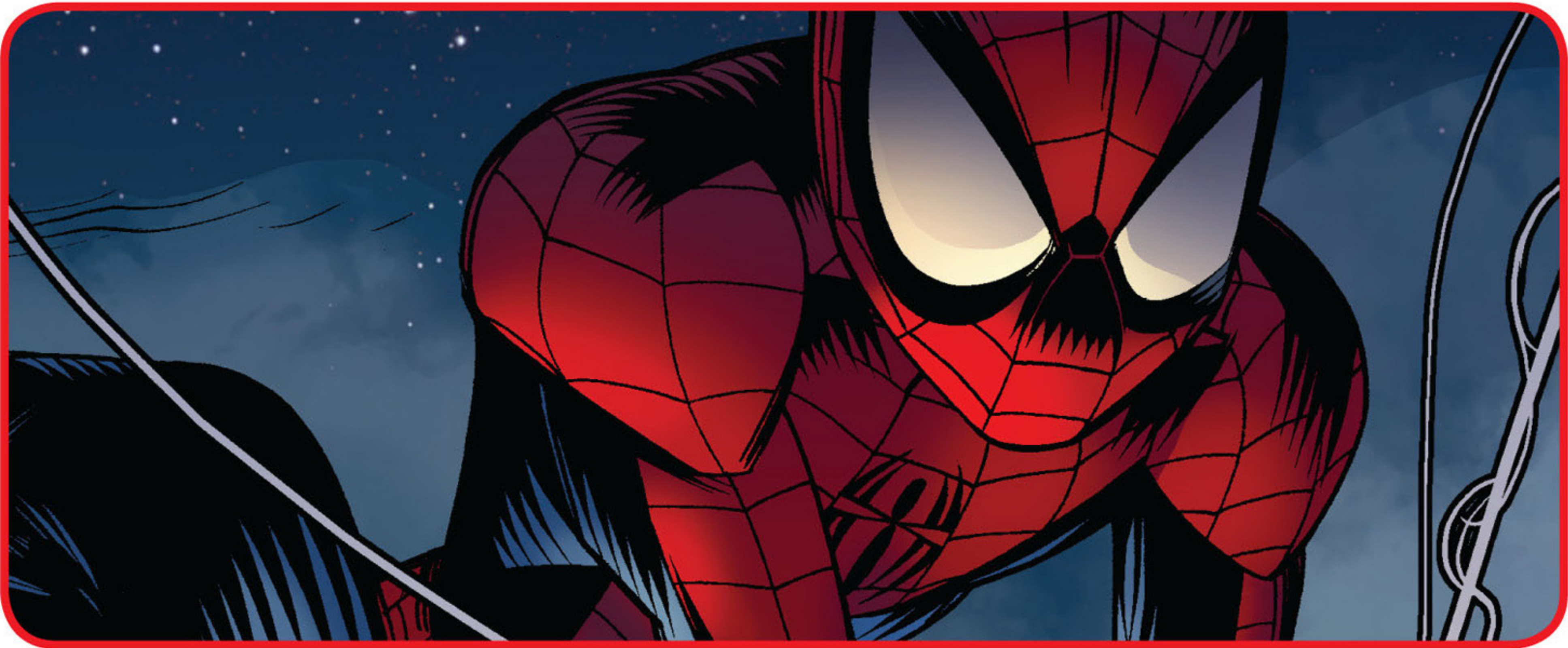
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ISSUE
154

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The bite of a genetically altered spider granted high school student Peter Parker incredible arachnid-like powers. When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his amazing abilities to protect his fellow man. He learned the invaluable lesson that with great power there must also come great responsibility.

Now the fledgling super hero tries to balance a full high school curriculum, a part-time job, and swing time as the misunderstood, web-slinging Spider-Man!



PREVIOUSLY IN ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN:

Spider-Man is now living with Johnny Storm, a.k.a. the Human Torch, and Bobby Drake, a.k.a. Iceman. Both have disguised themselves as his cousins and are going to school like normal kids.

The world peacekeeping task force S.H.I.E.L.D. has decided to put their foot down as far as all things Spider-Man are concerned. Spider-Man is told that he must undergo afterschool super-hero training if he is to continue fighting crime. Iron Man is his first tutor.

Mysterio made a play to be the new Kingpin of Crime but was taken down by Spider-Man. Another Spider-Man foe, the Black Cat, was witness to the entire thing and is after a mystery artifact from the Kingpin’s archives.

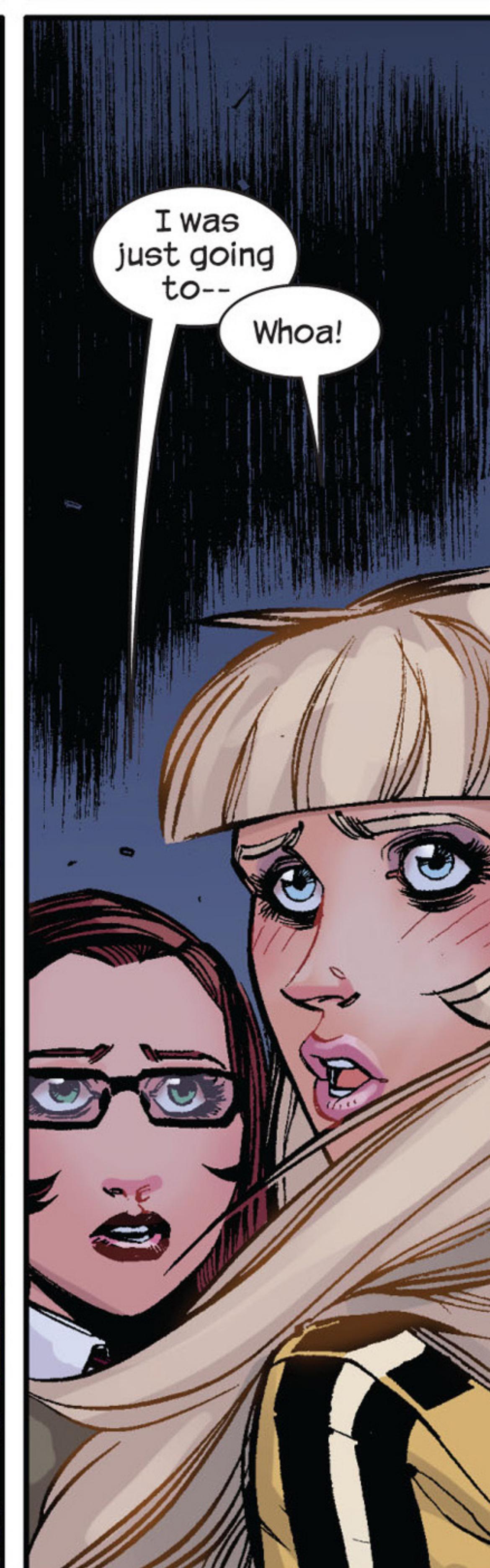
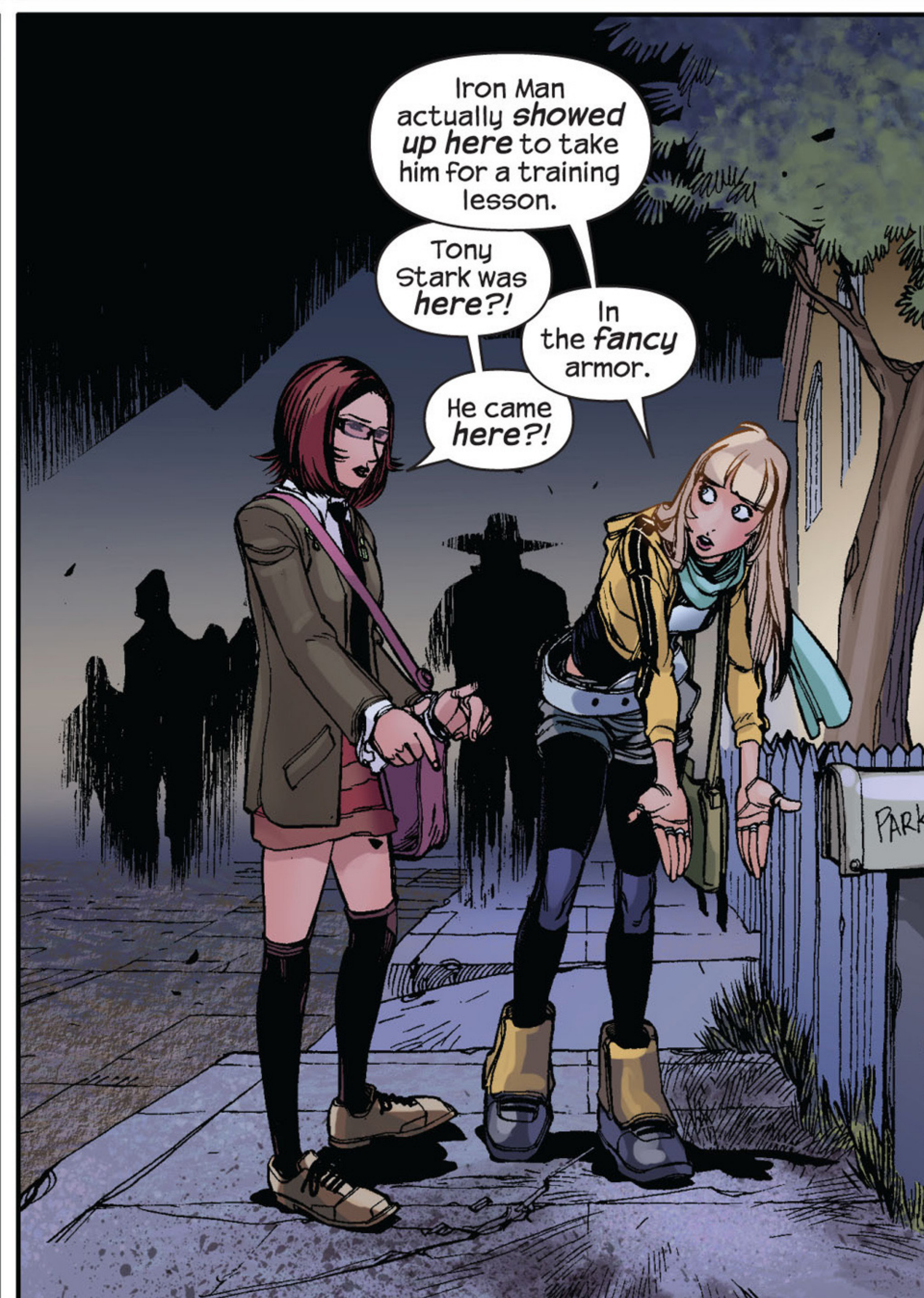
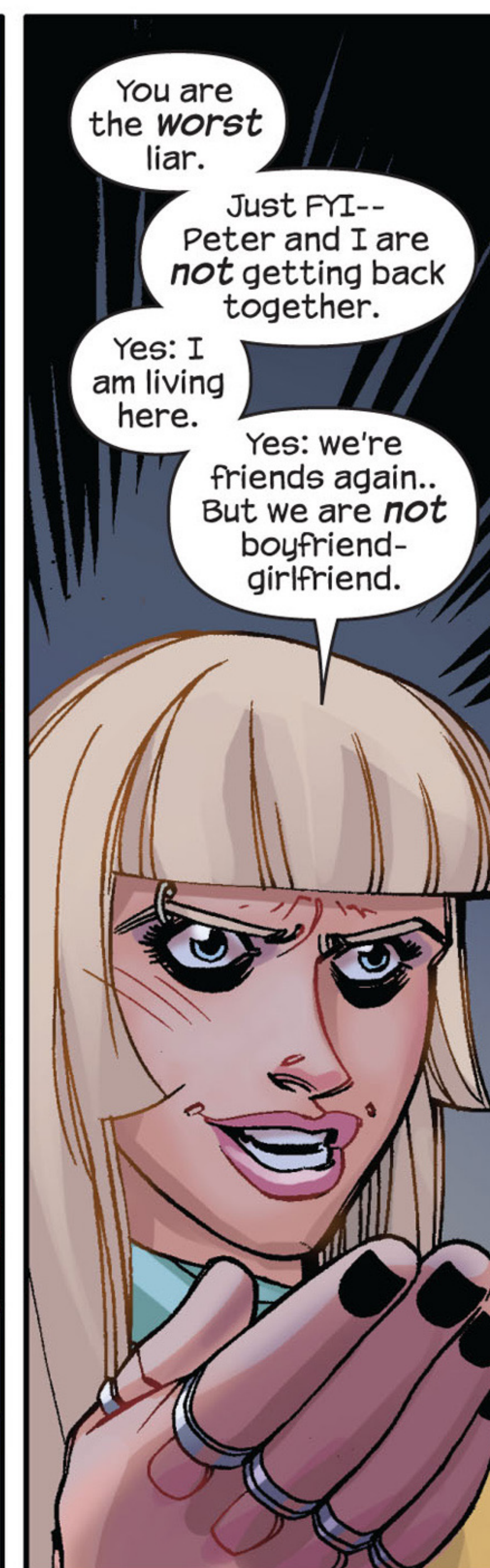
They both discovered the Kingpin of crime’s secret weapon: the legendary Zodiac key. Its power is vast and destructive, a fact the Black Cat found out the hard way. Just by touching it, she destroyed a city block in the middle of SoHo.

As Mysterio and the Black Cat fight over the key, Iron Man and Spider-Man show up to save the day.



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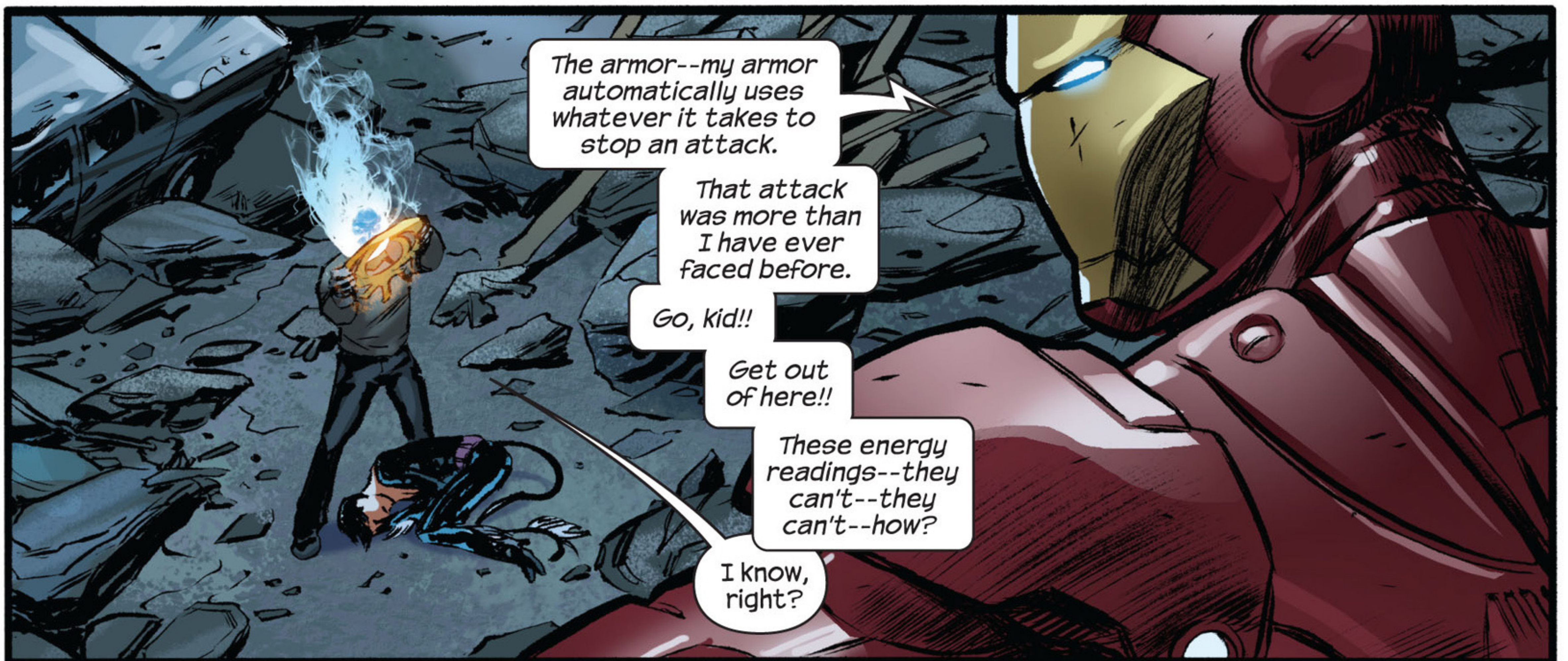
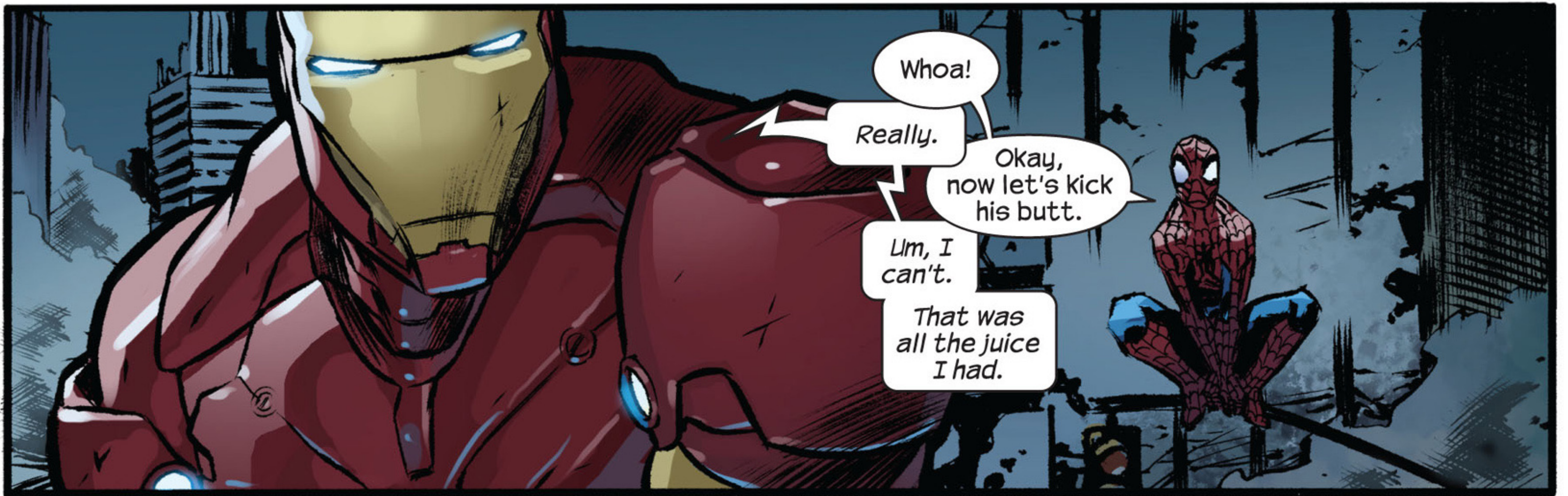
*Hey, Reader! The events in this story occur prior to Ultimate Avengers vs. New Ultimates #1

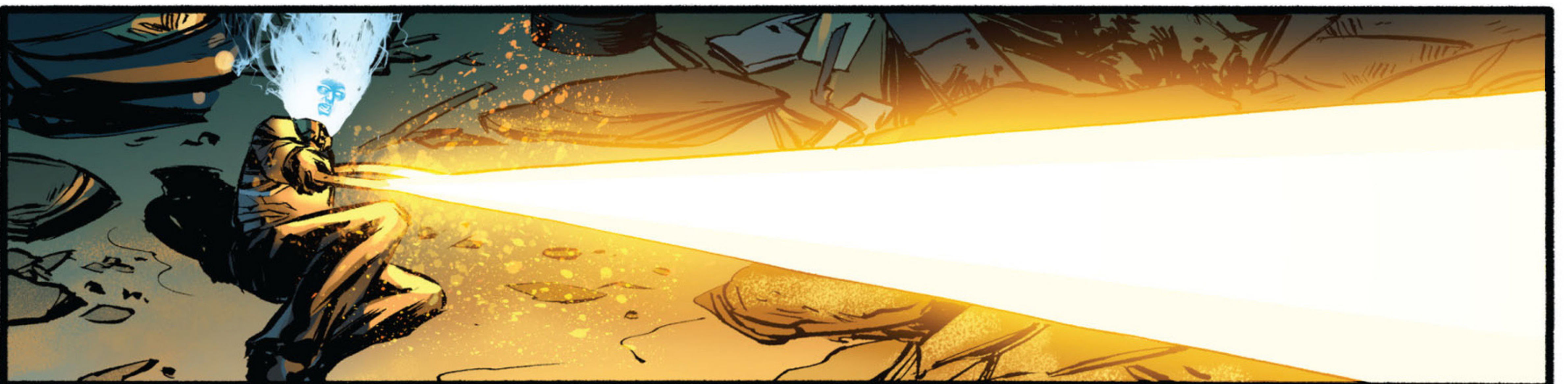




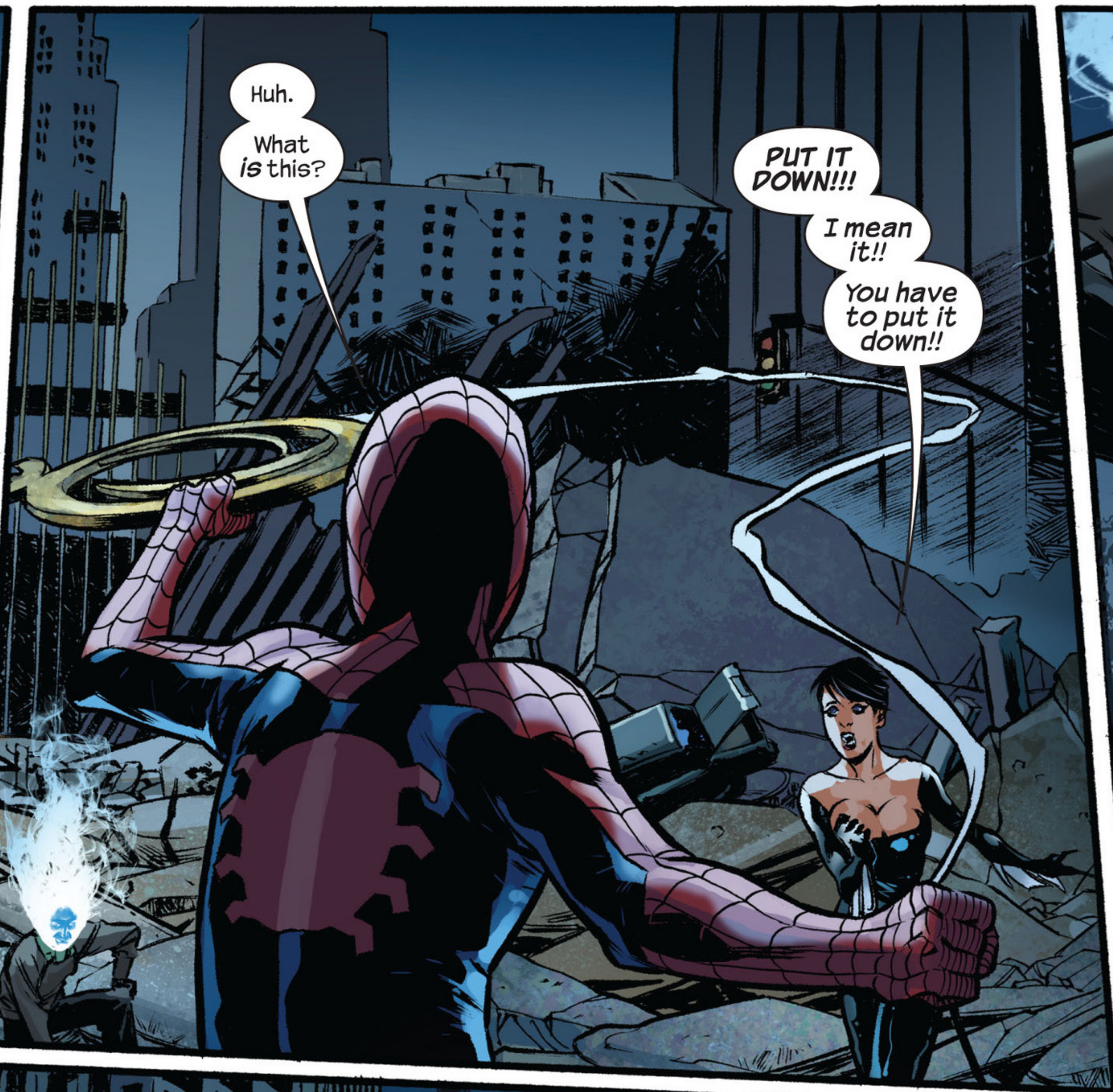
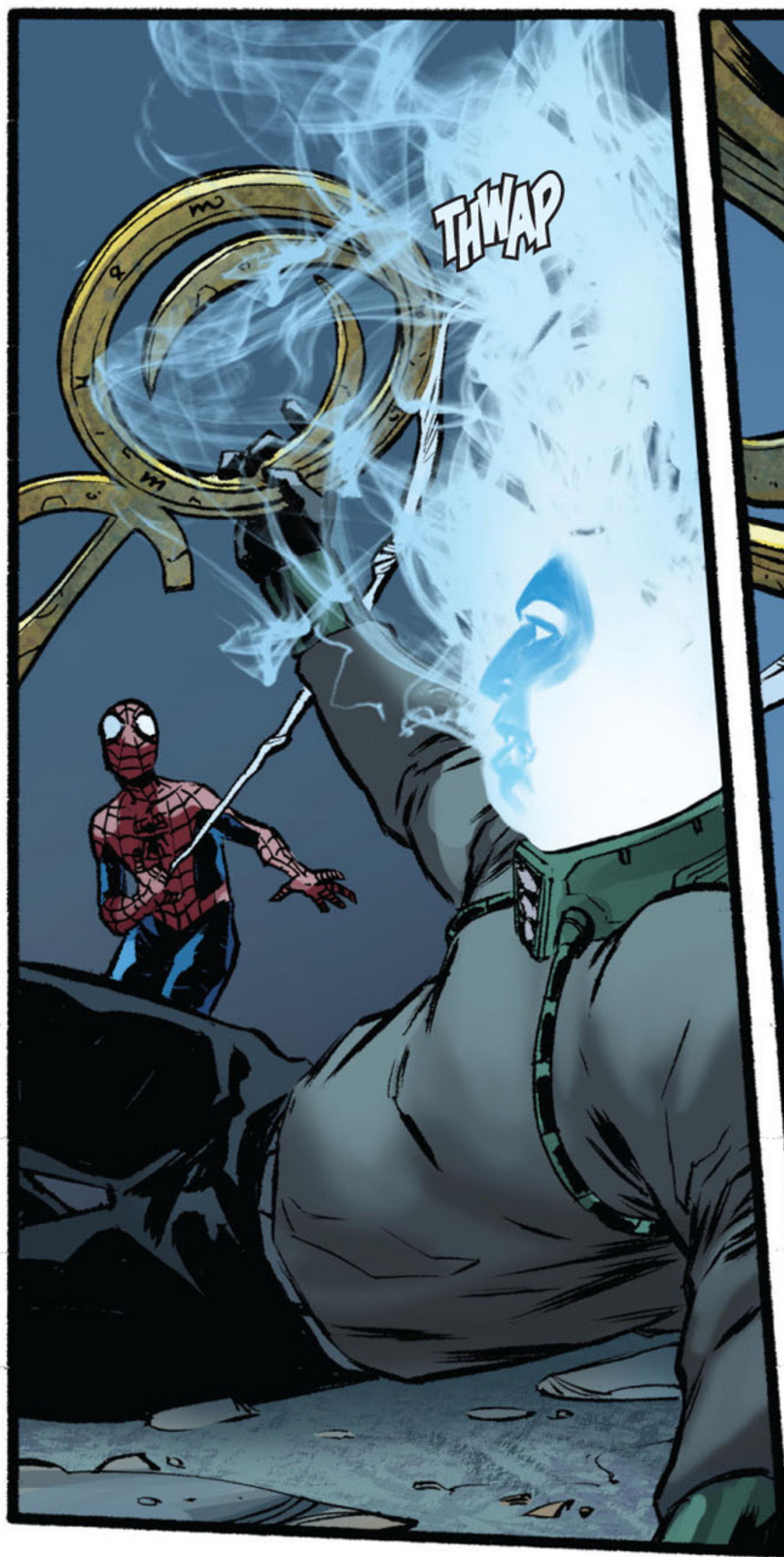


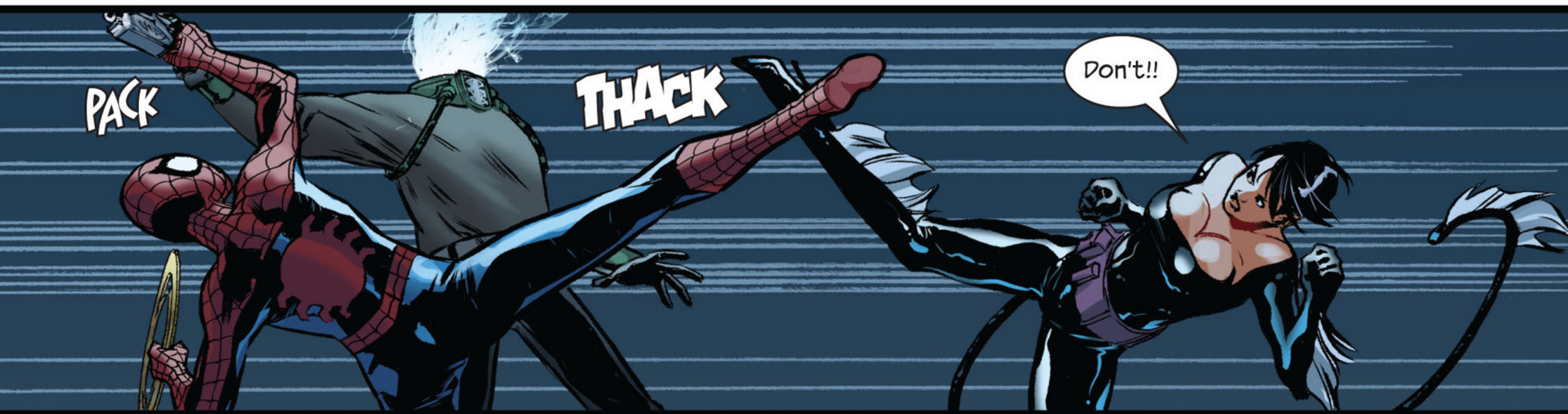
SOHO.











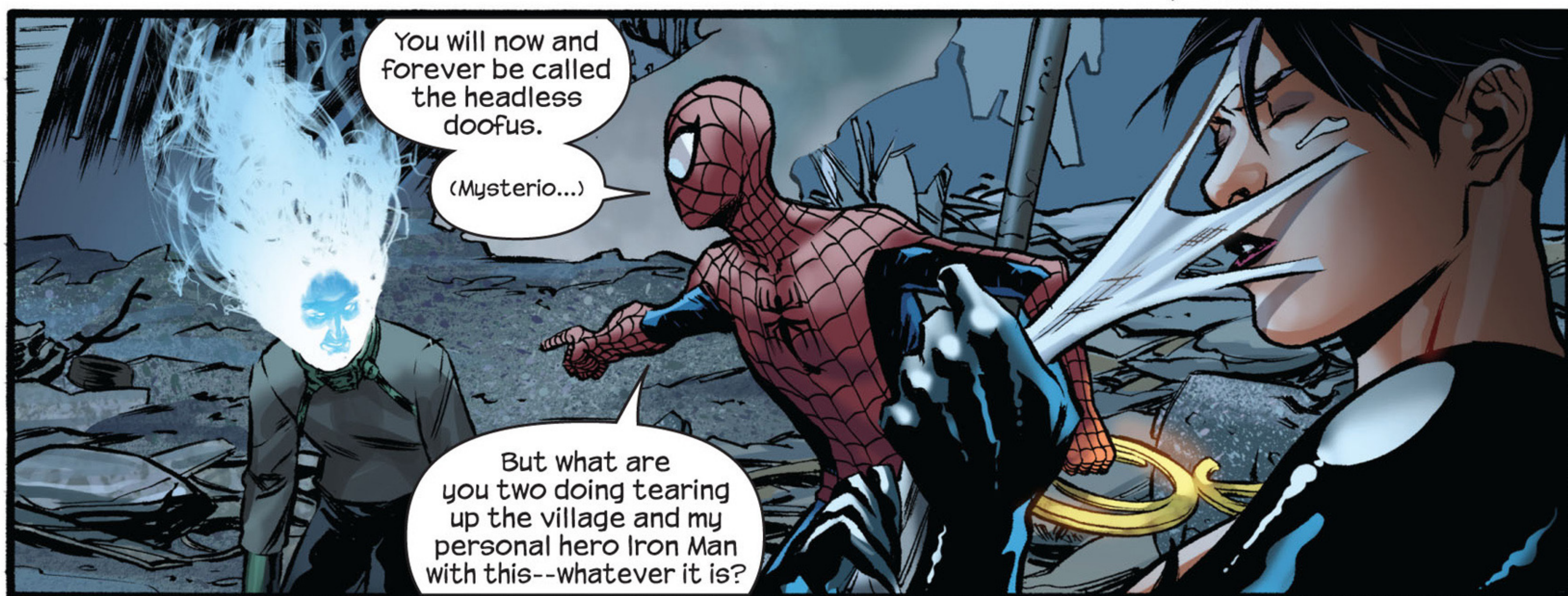


Okay,
now everybody
calm down!!

Sure,
it's great to
see you're still
alive, kitty
person.

Almost as
much as it is
disappointing to
find out the
headless doofus
is still alive.

And that is
your name now,
Mysterio.



You will now and
forever be called
the headless
doofus.

(Mysterio...)

But what are
you two doing tearing
up the village and my
personal hero Iron Man
with this--whatever it is?



Don't
kill us!!

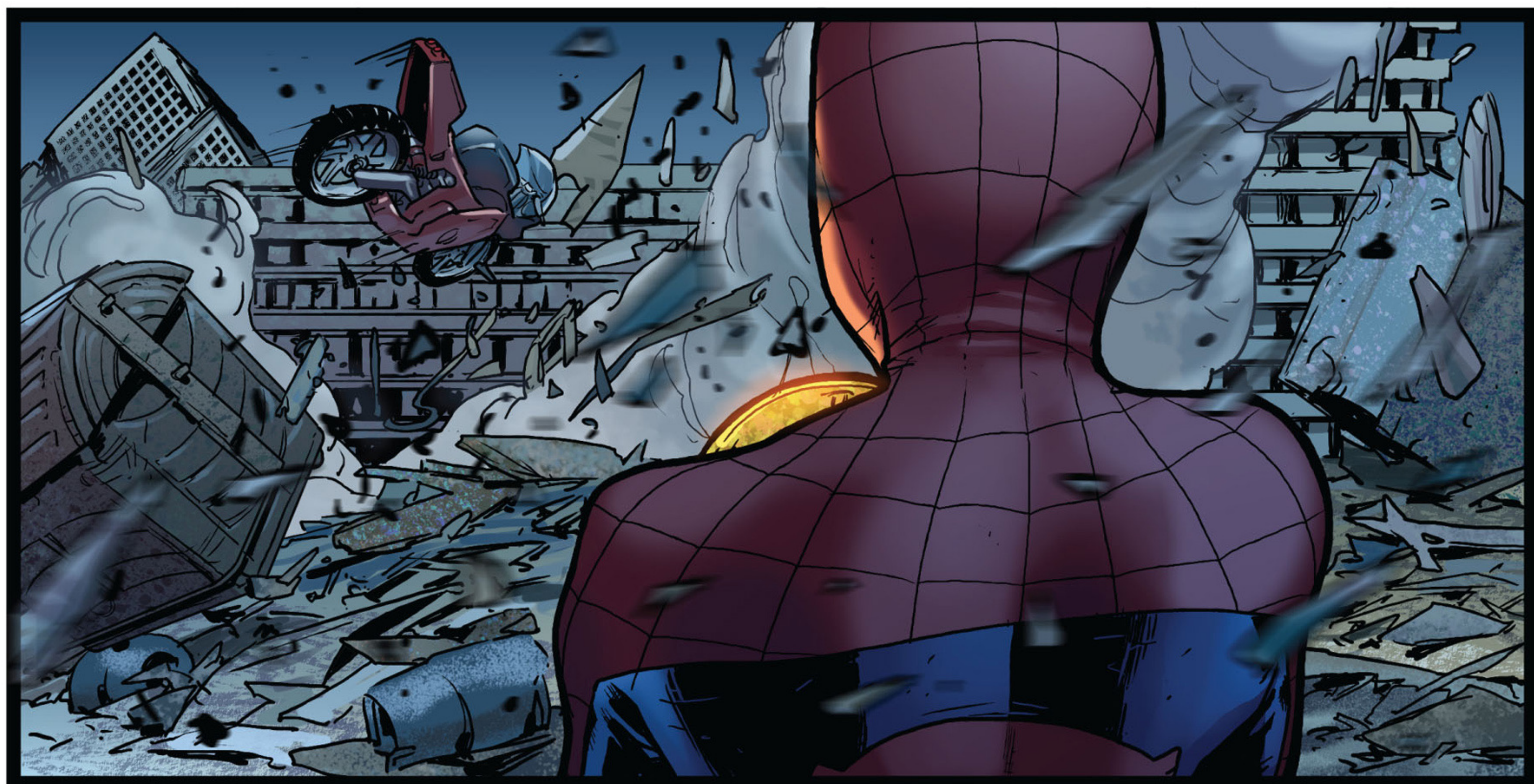
Oh, please,
I'm not going
to--uh, what
is it doing??



I told
you!!

I
WARNED
YOU!!!

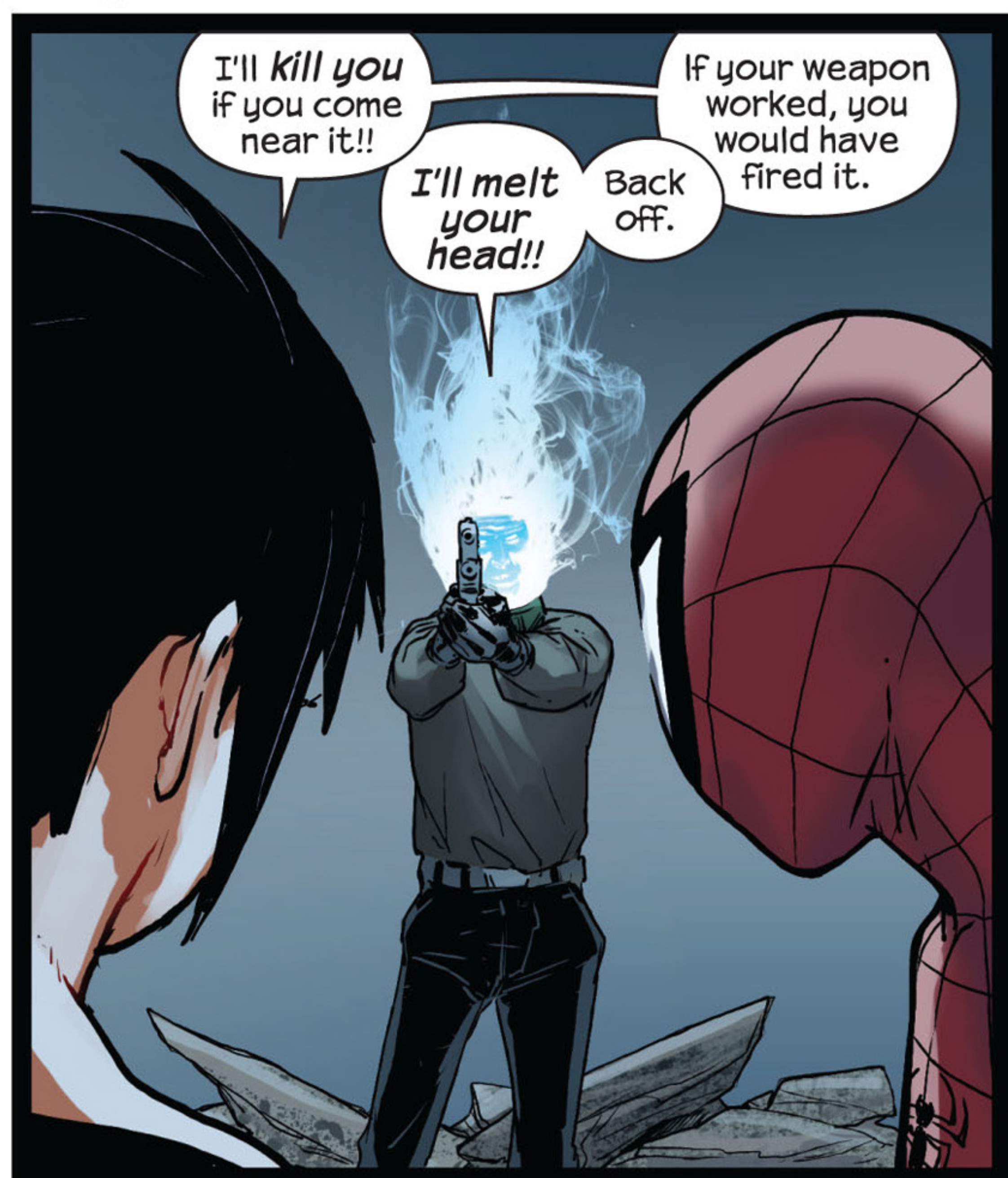
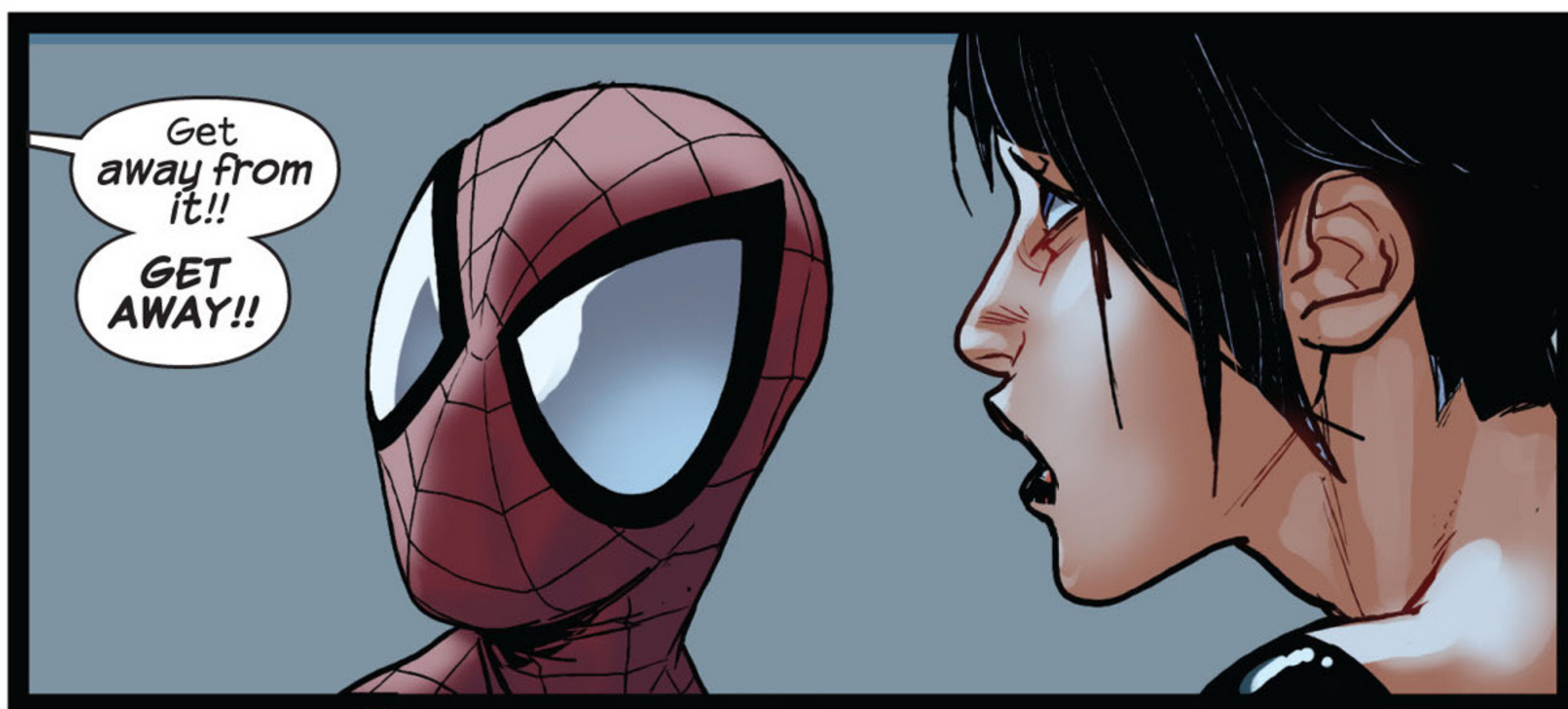
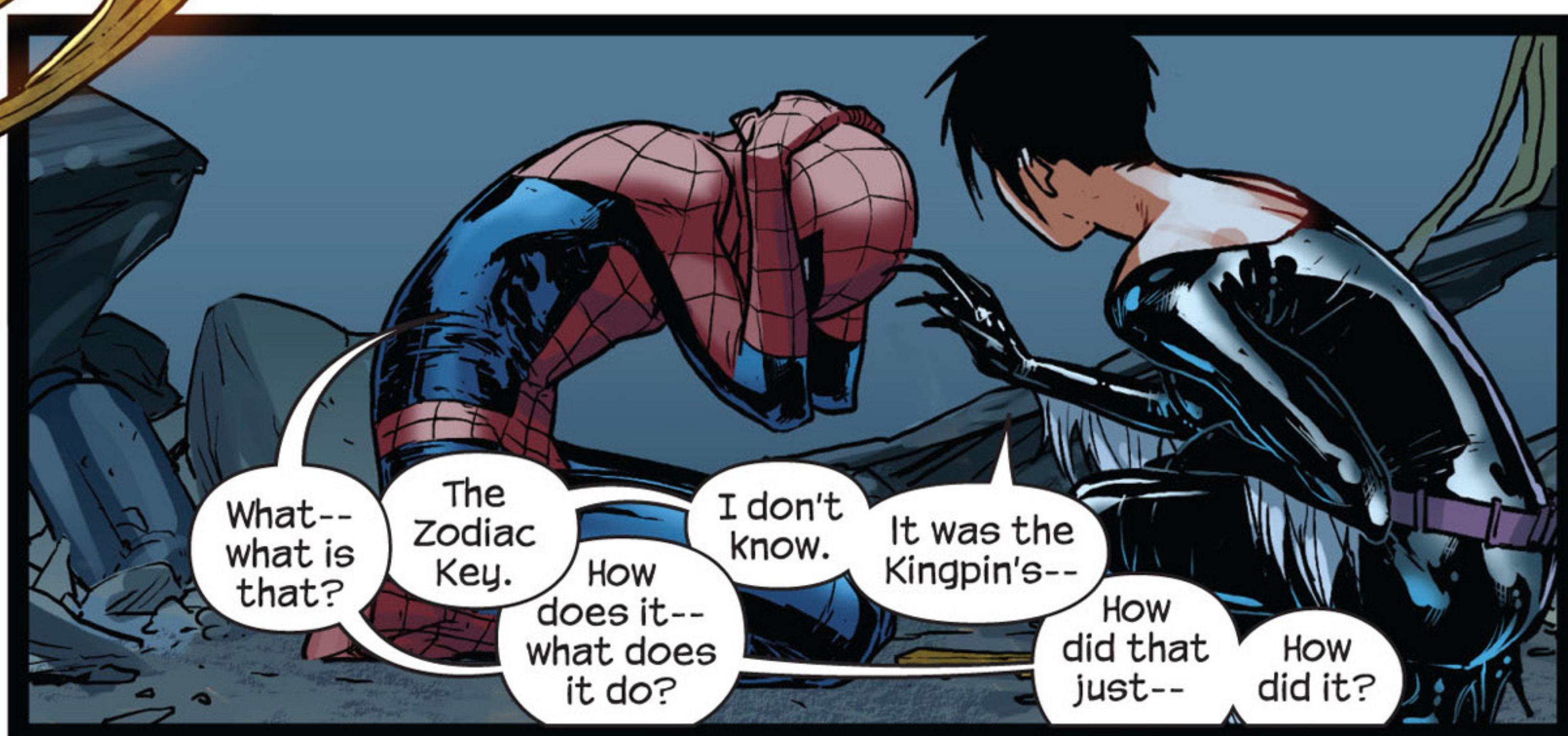
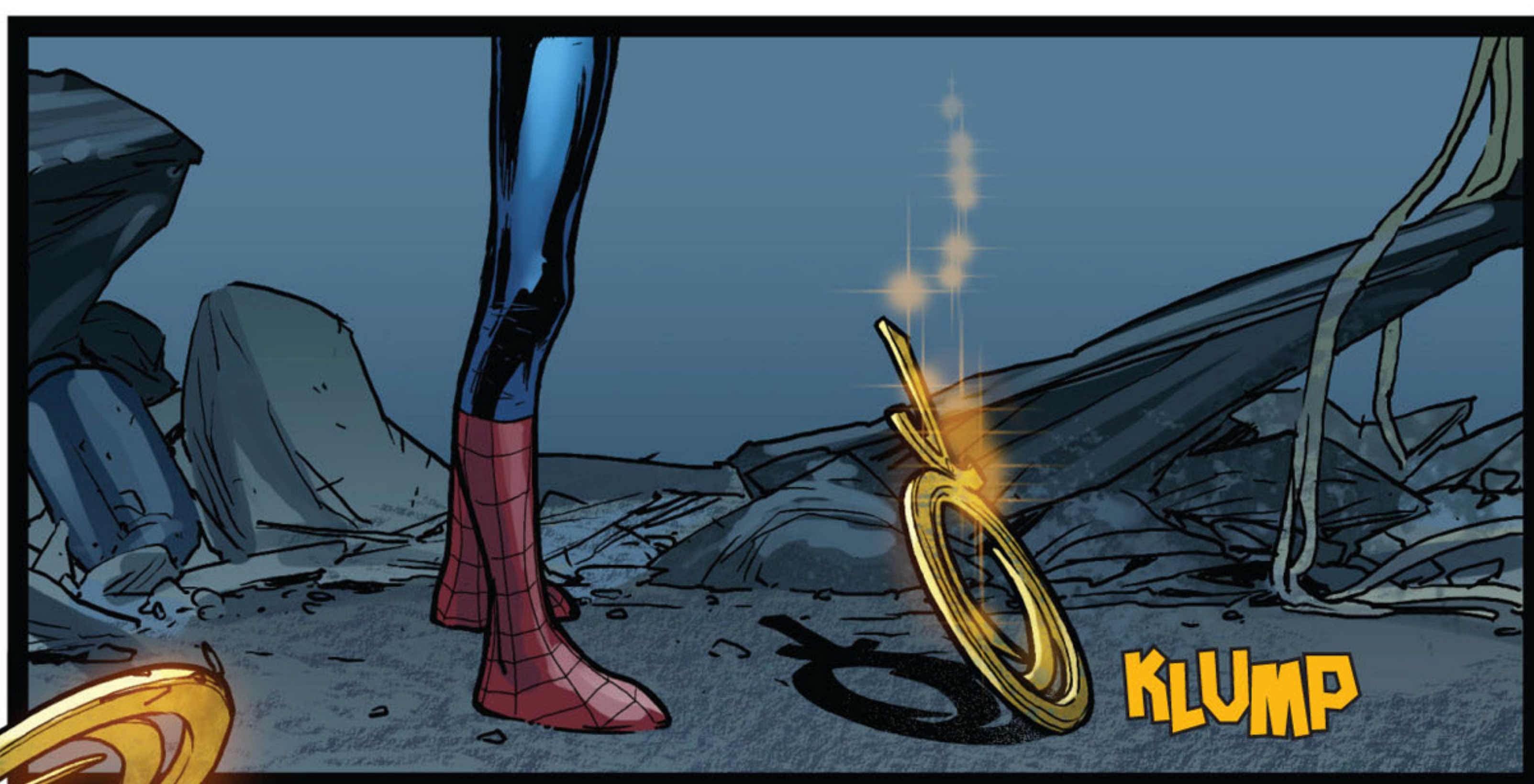
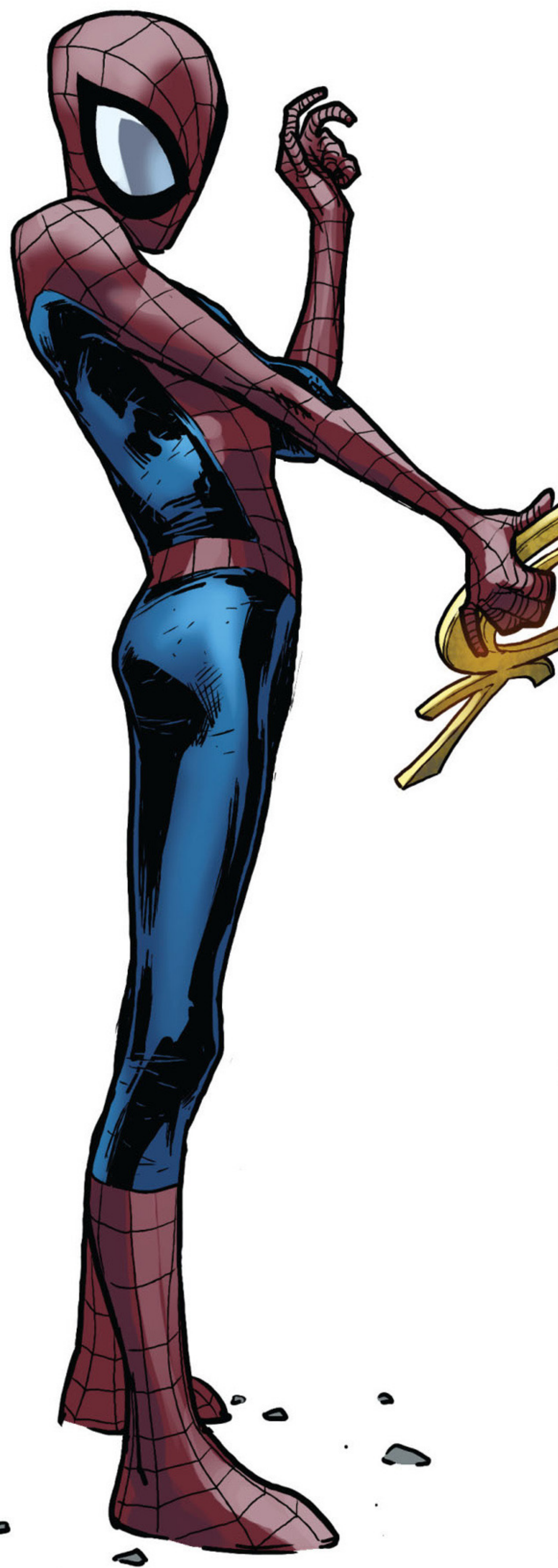


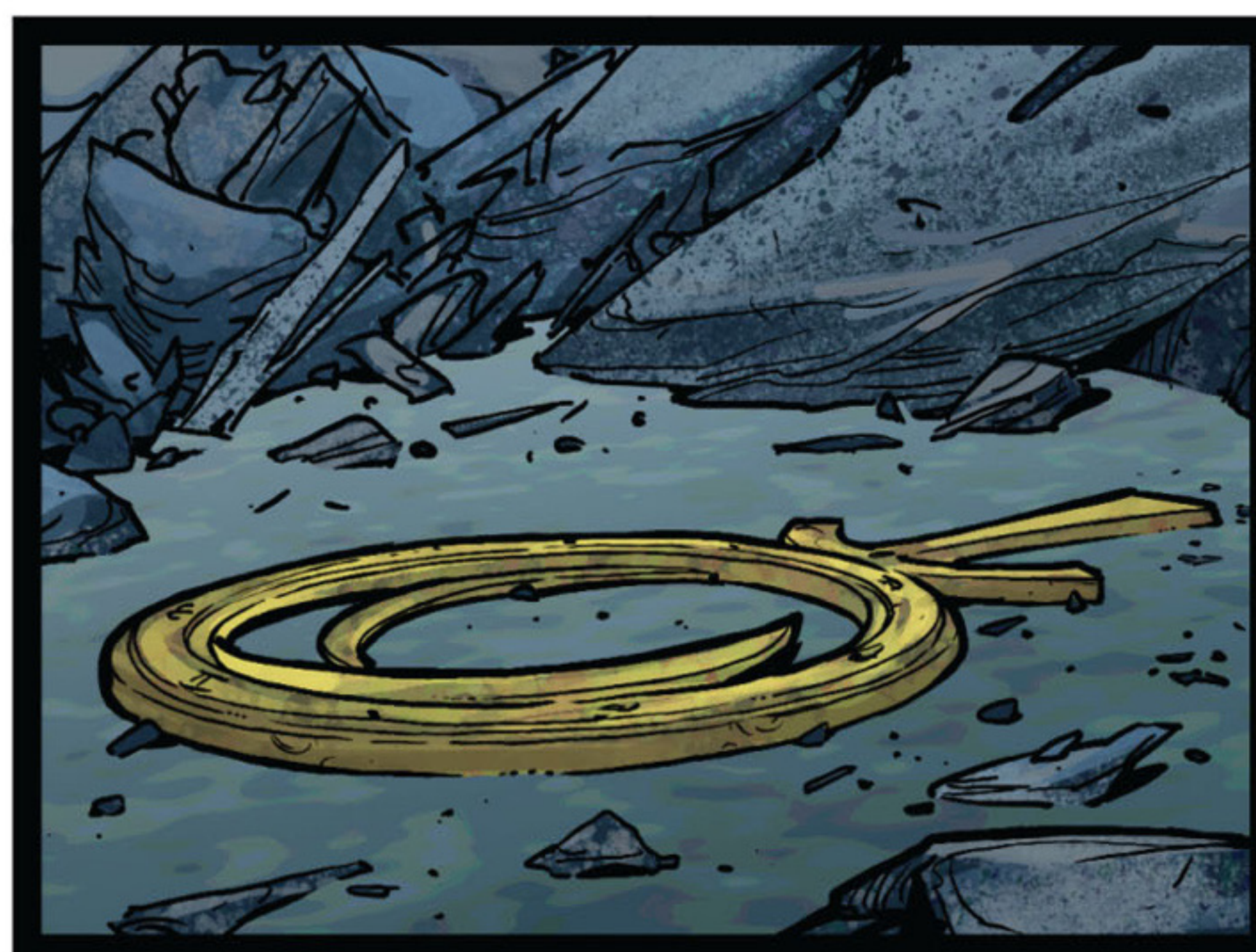
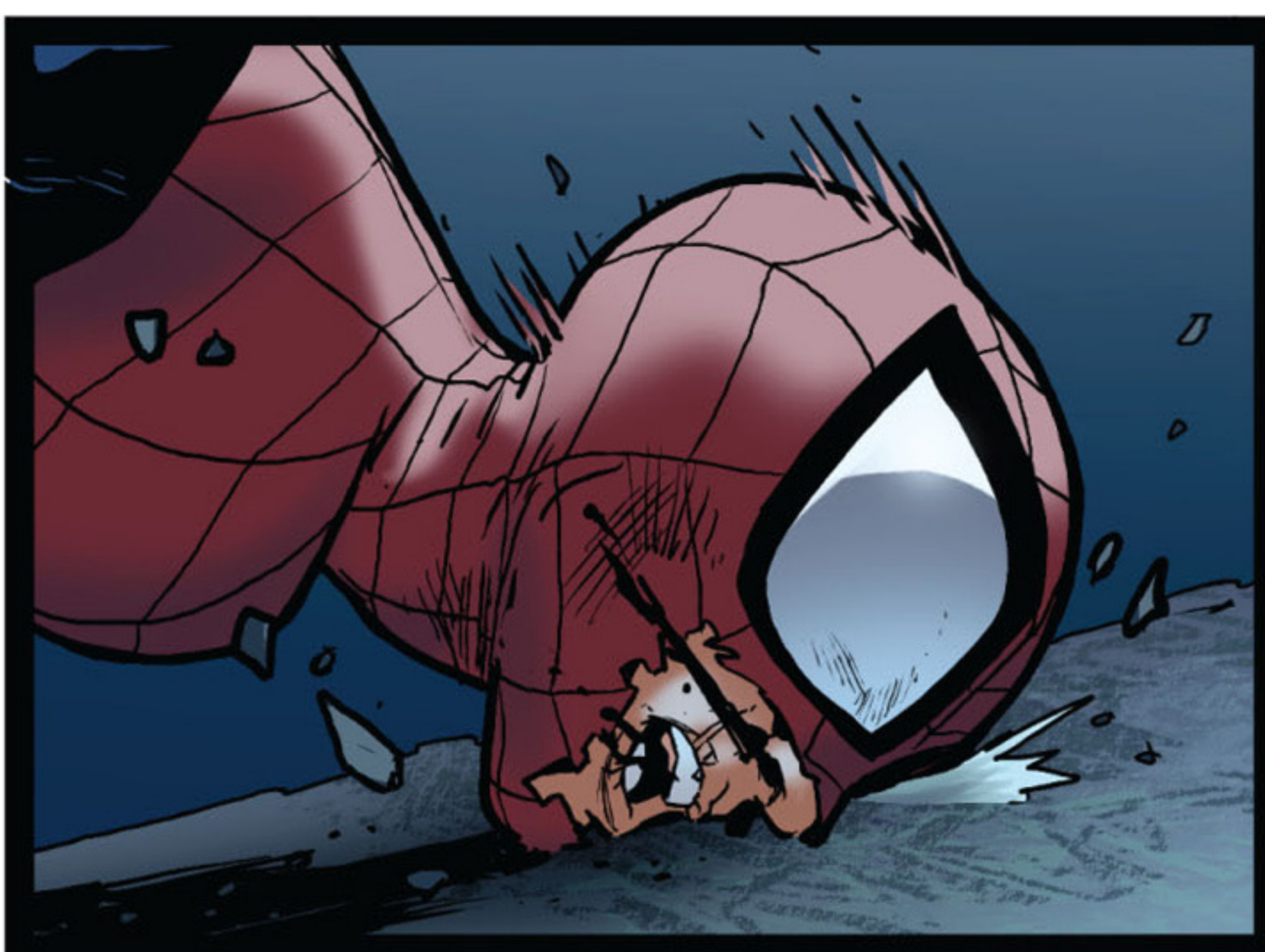
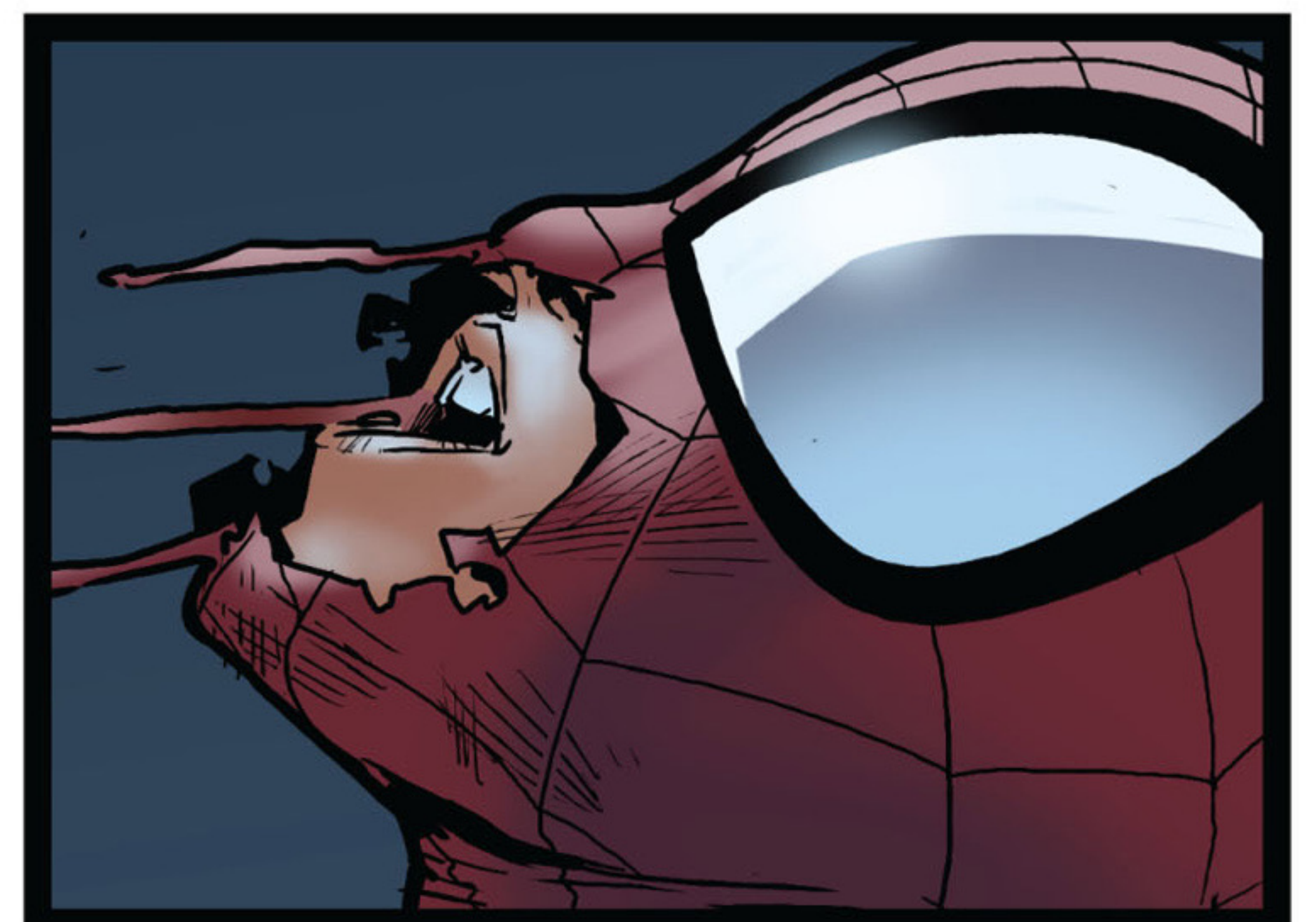
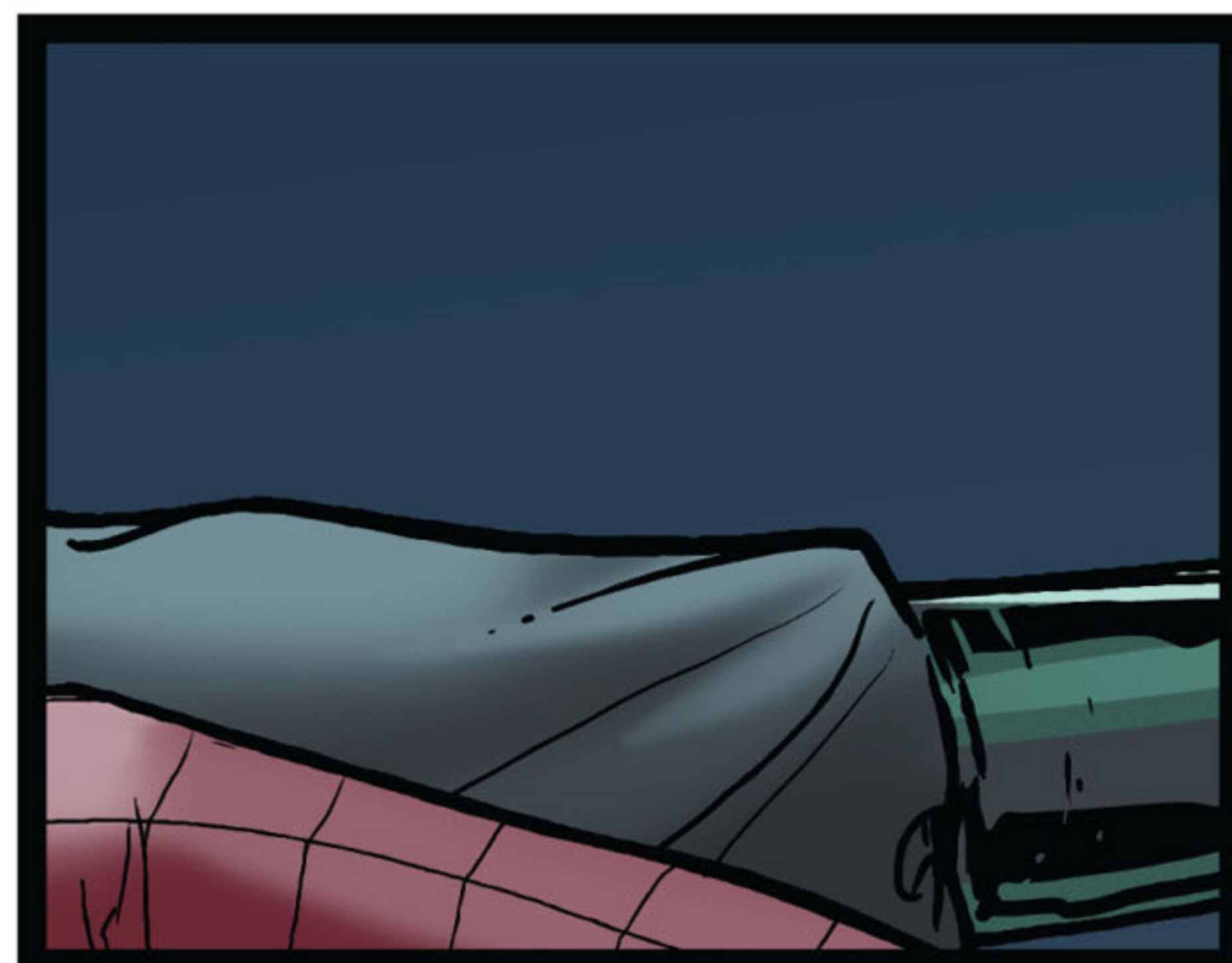
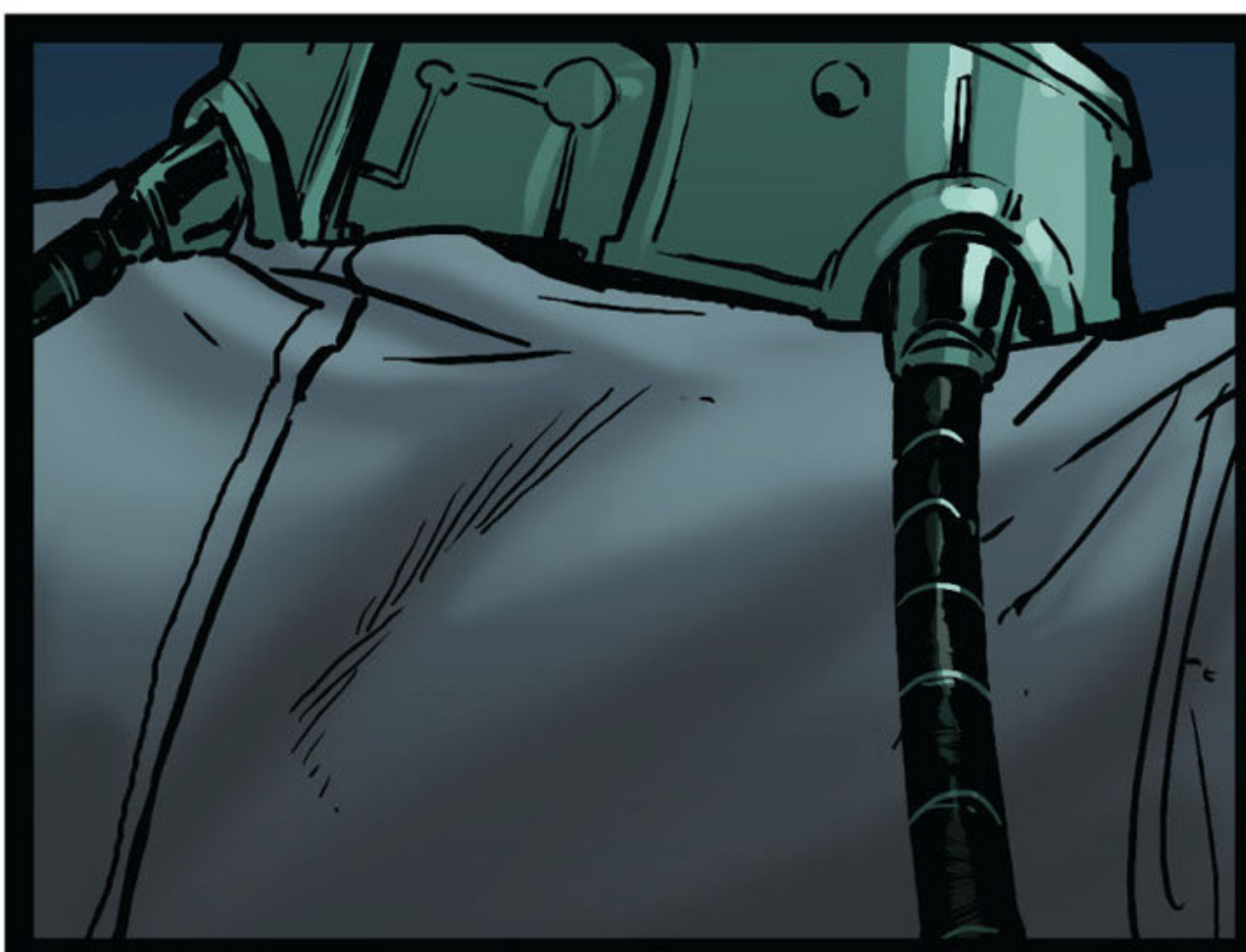
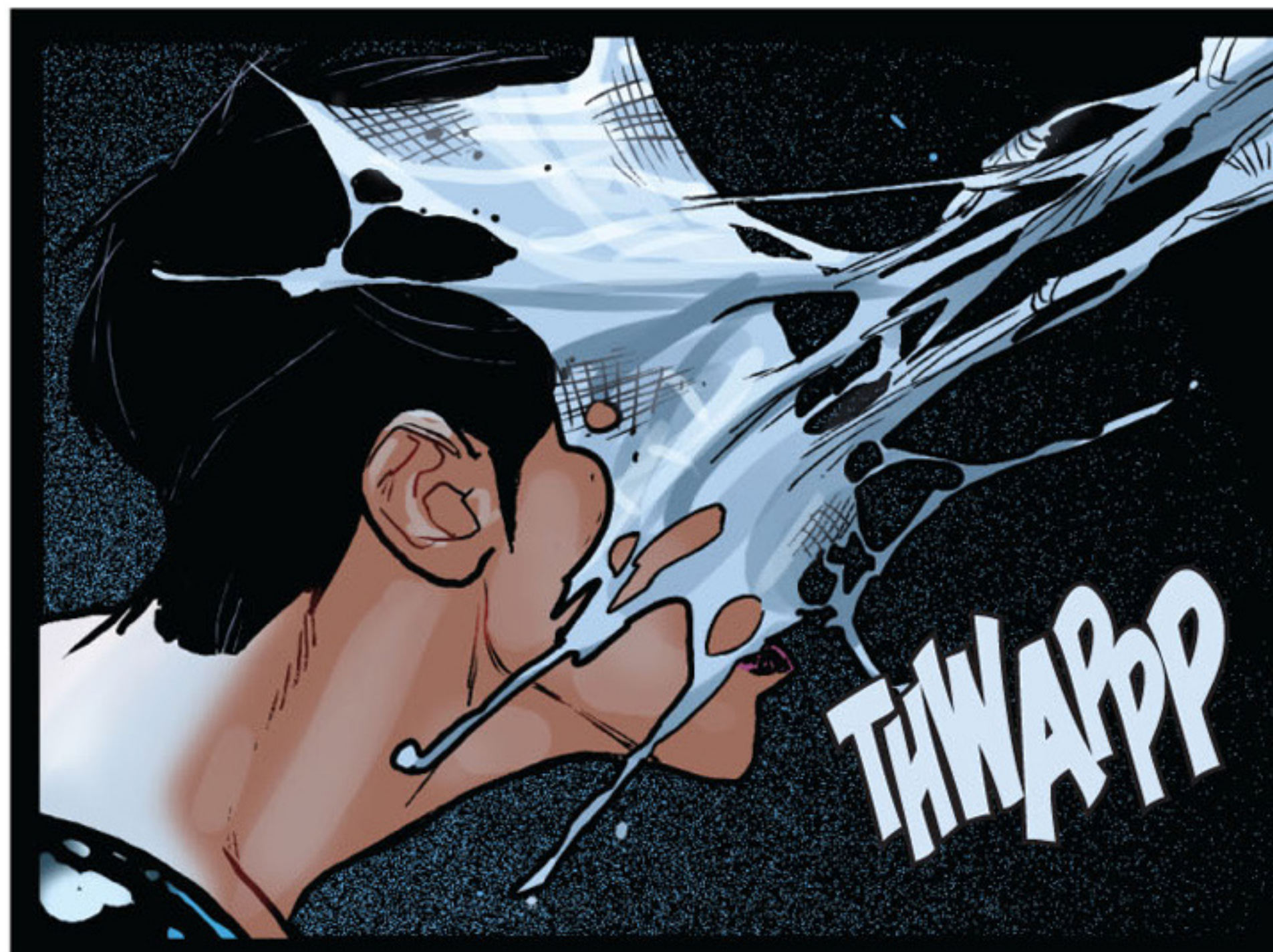
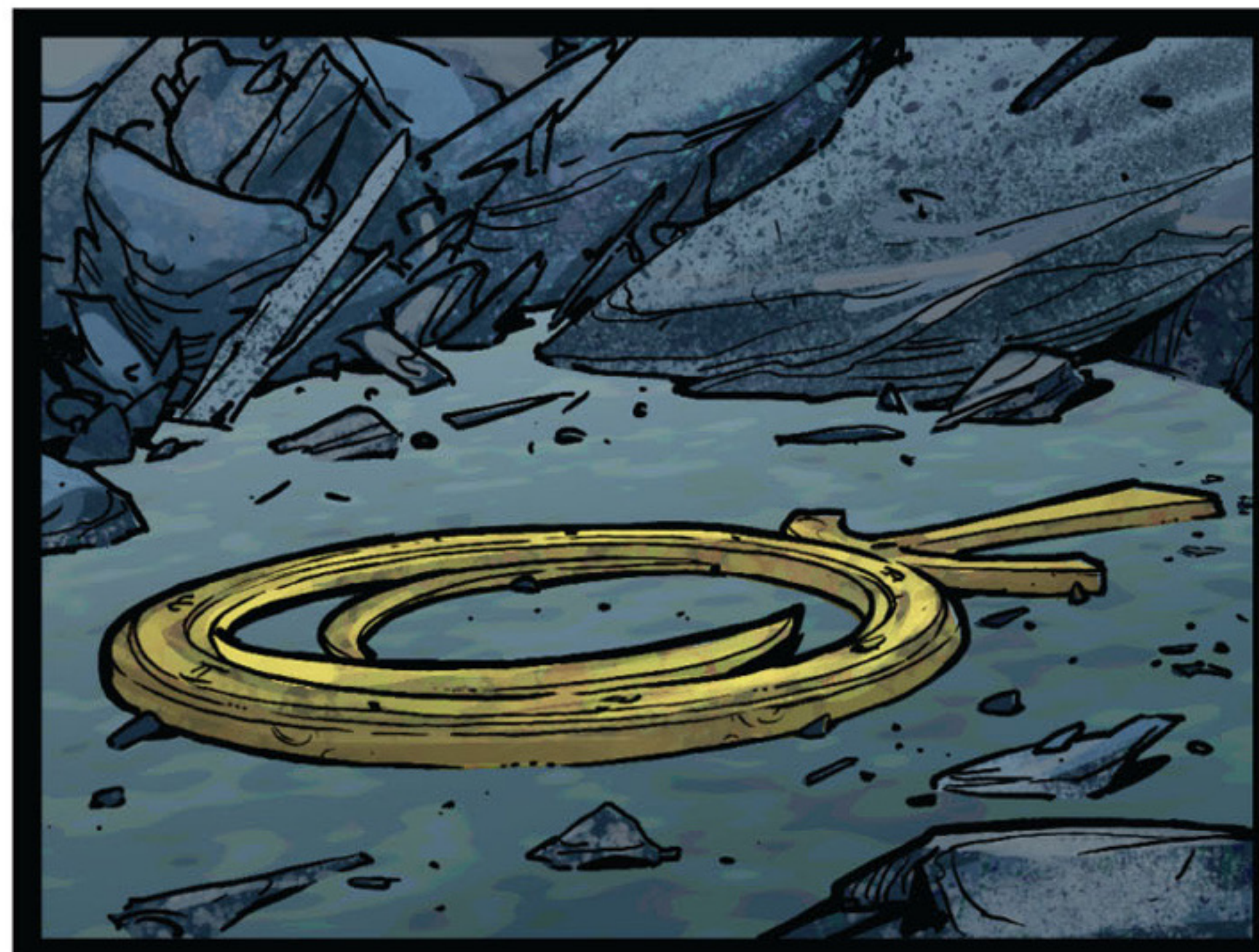
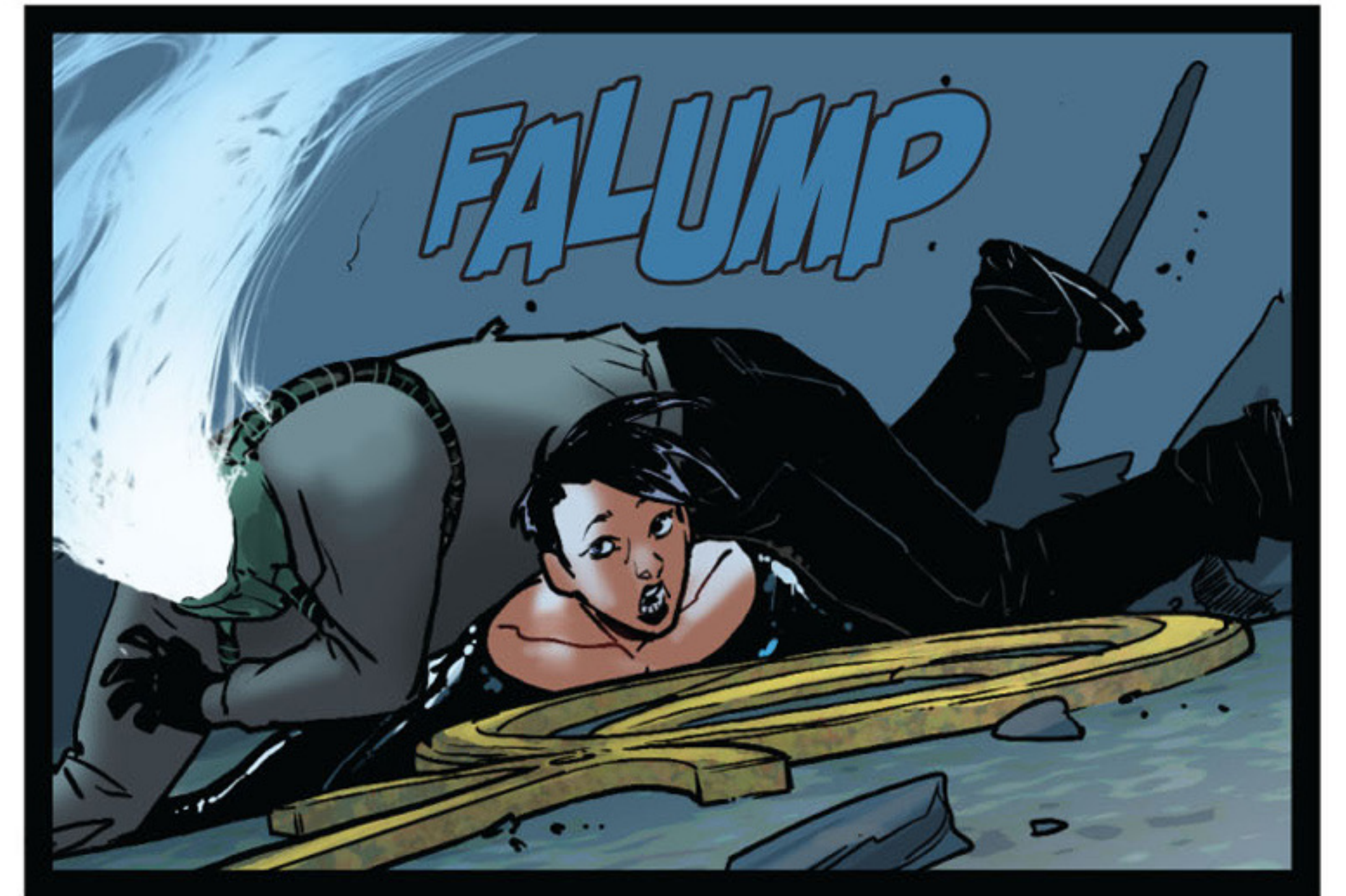
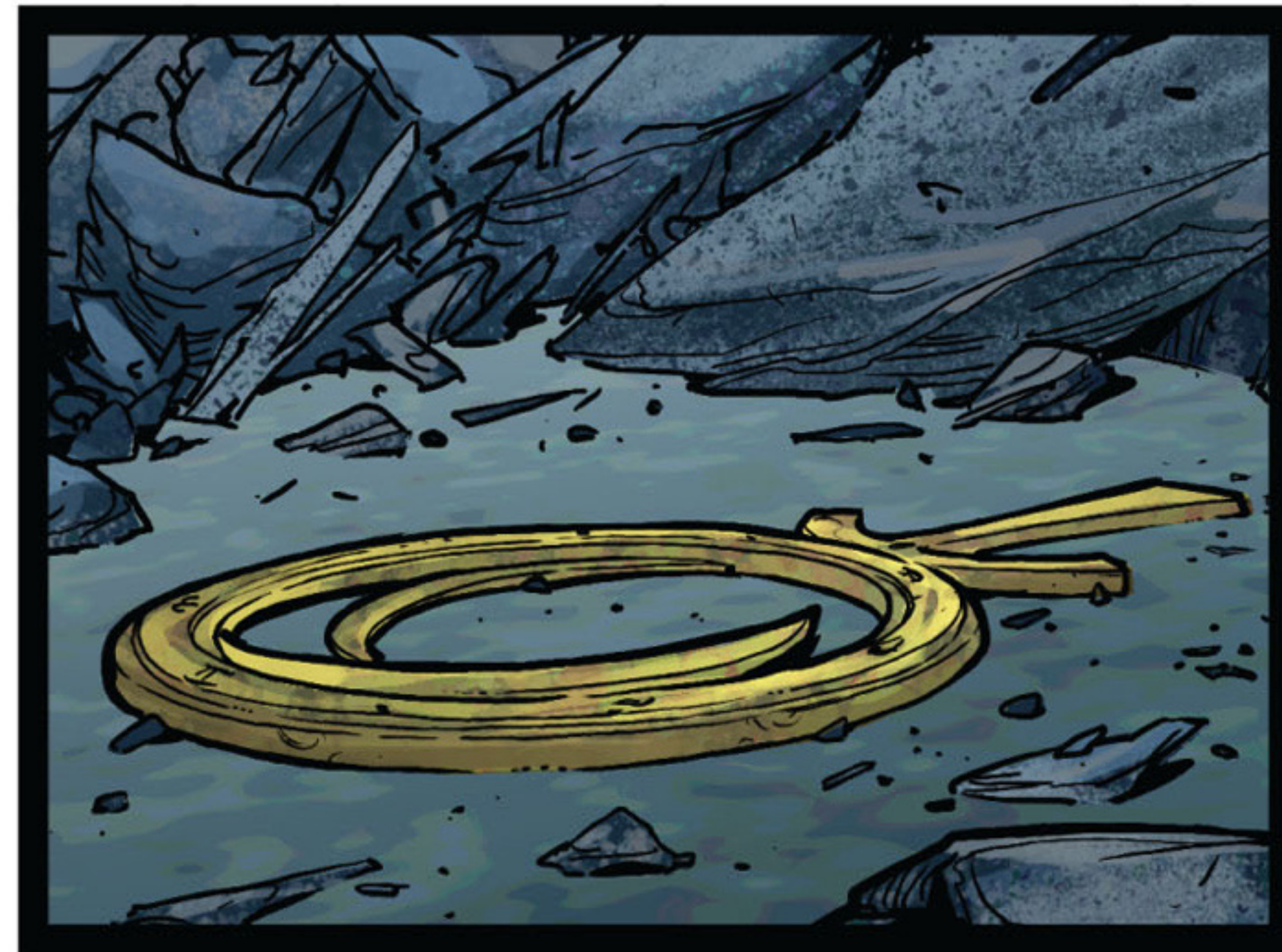
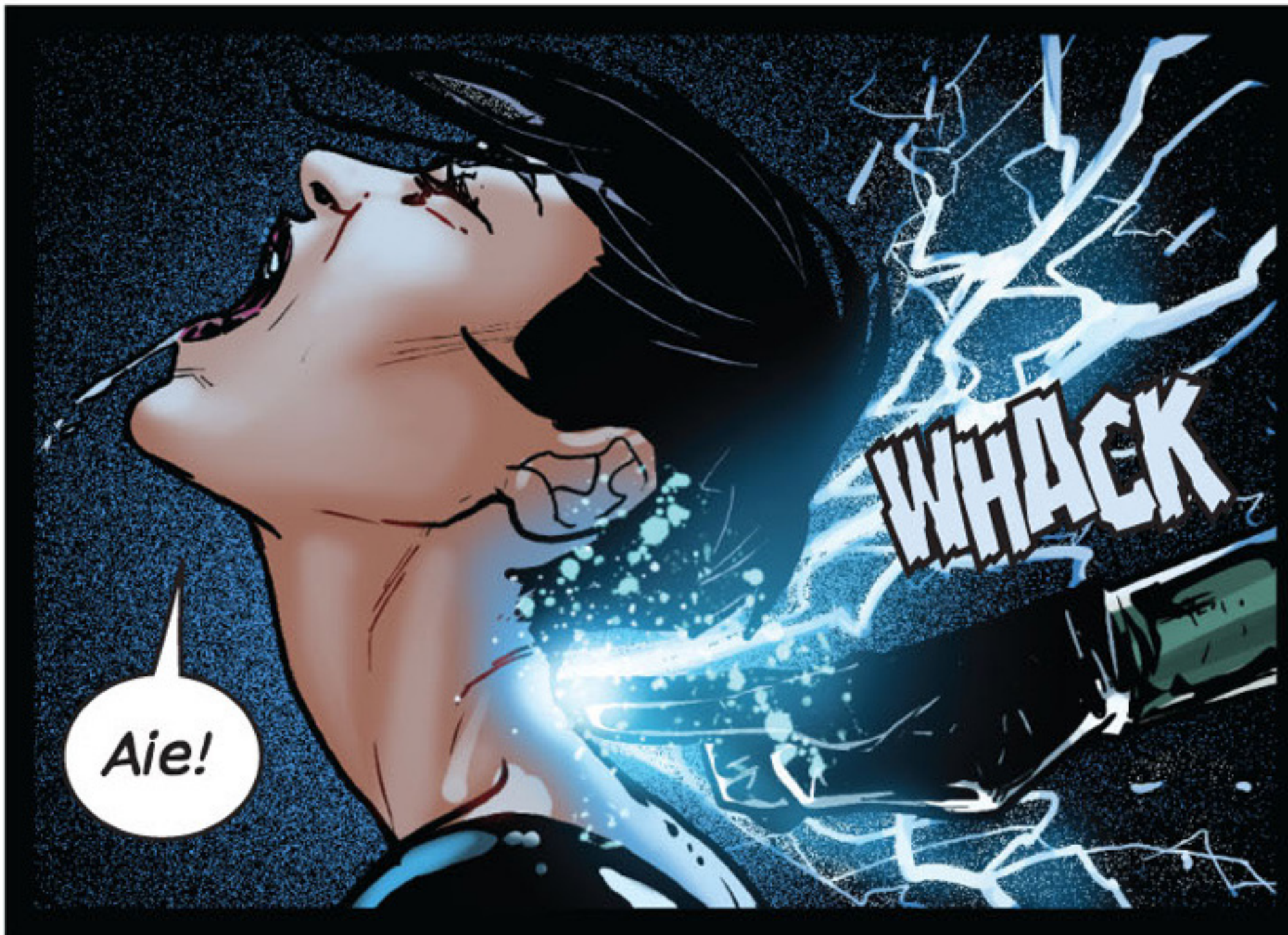
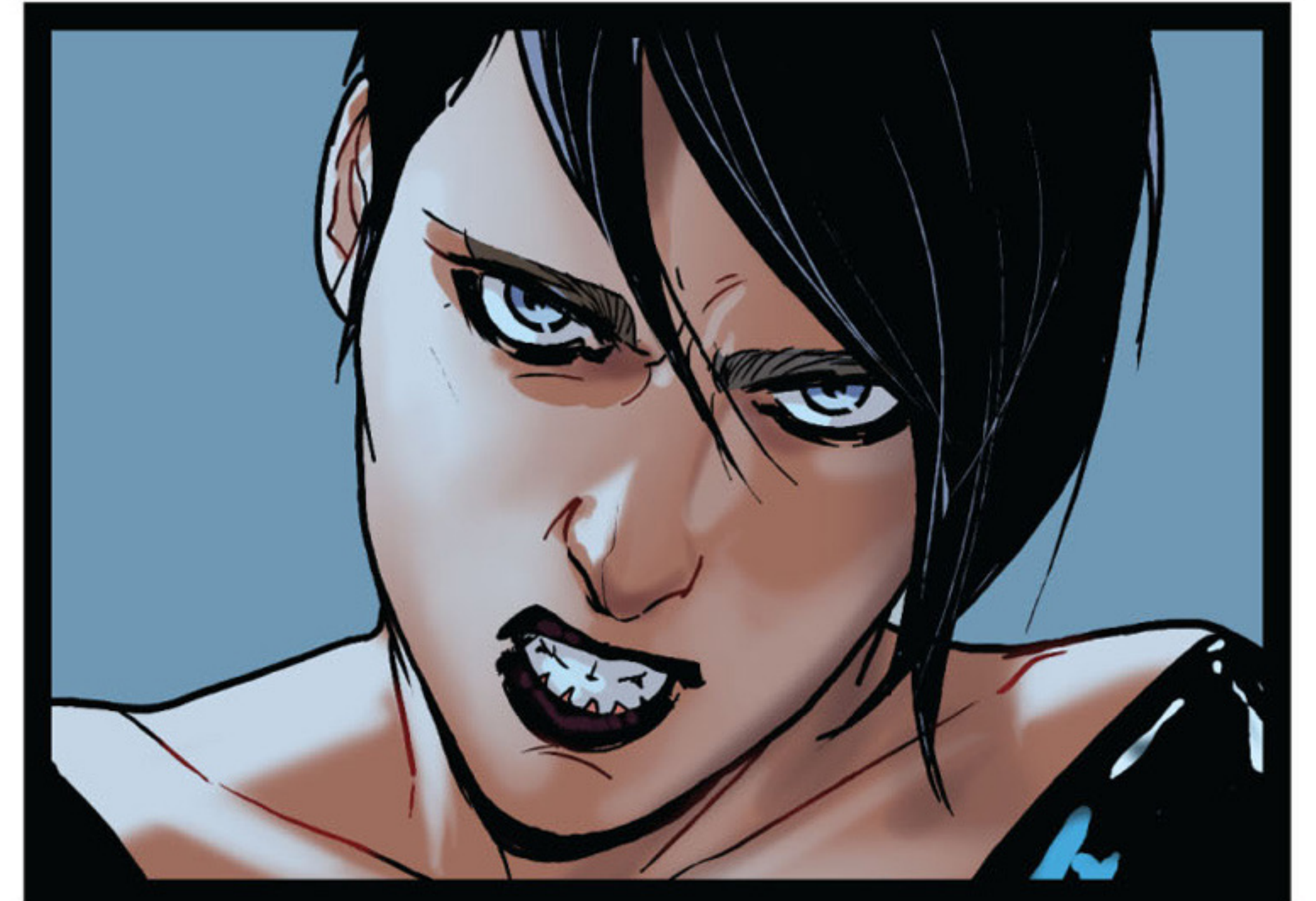
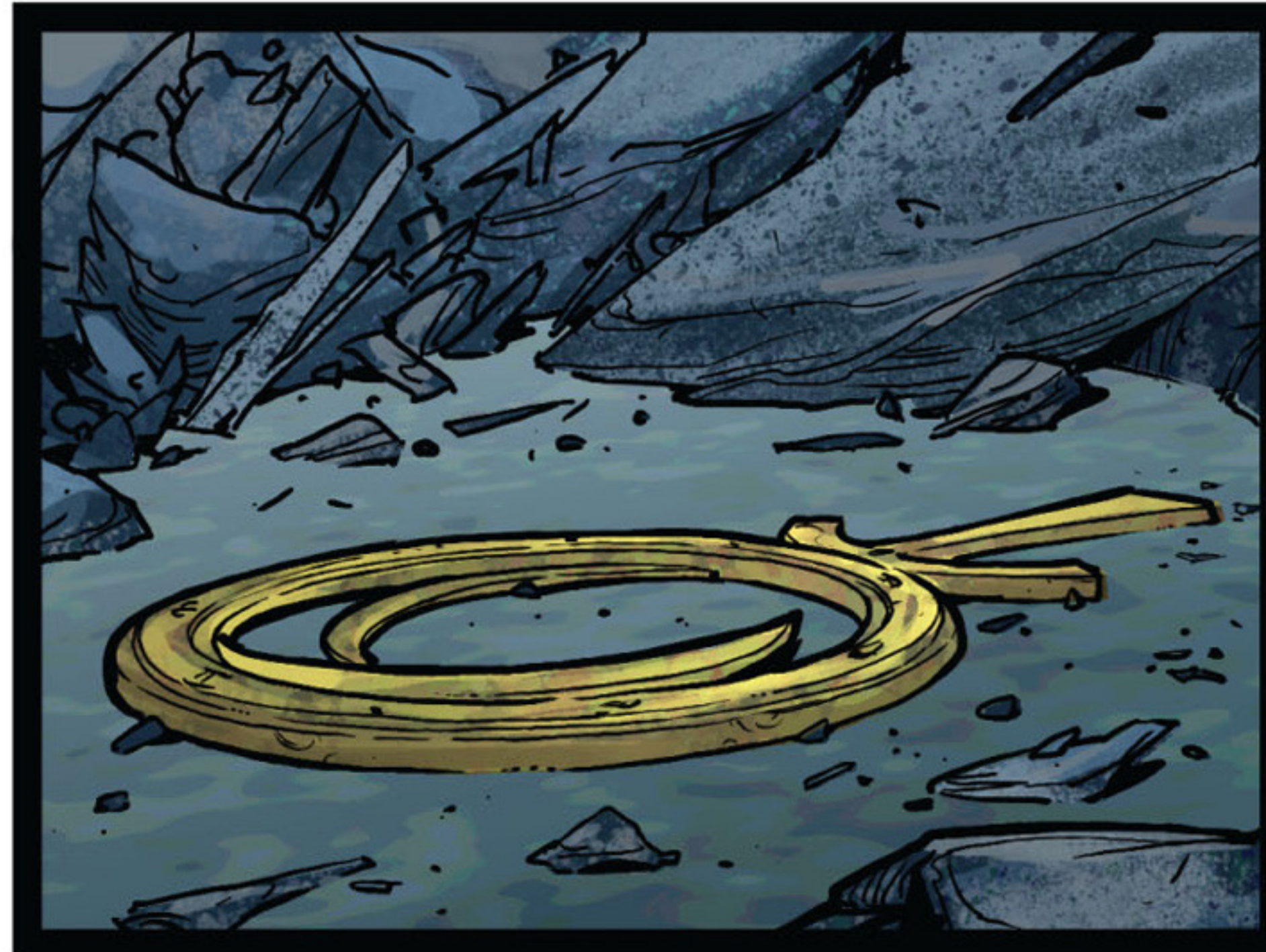
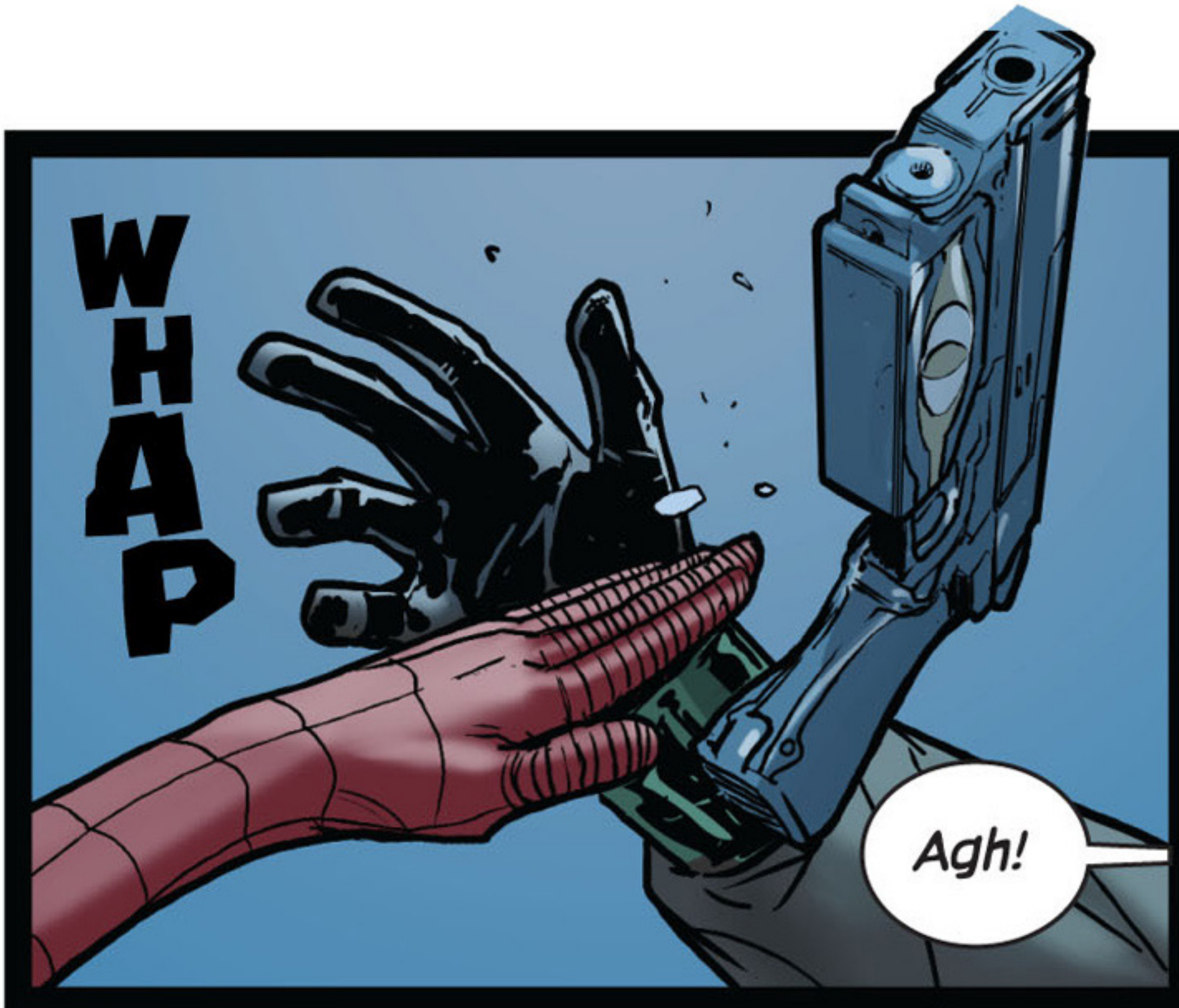


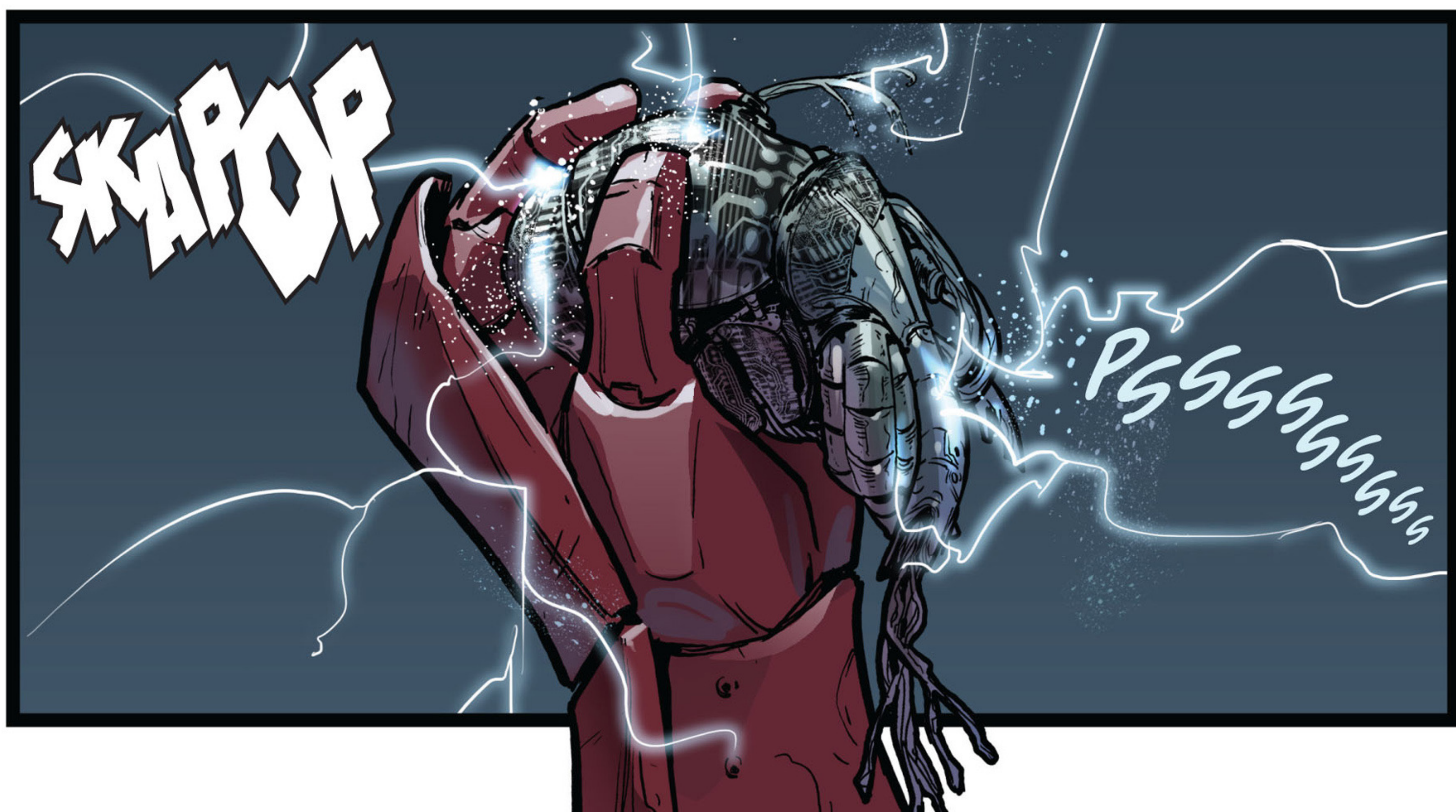


I'm--

I'm
sorry...









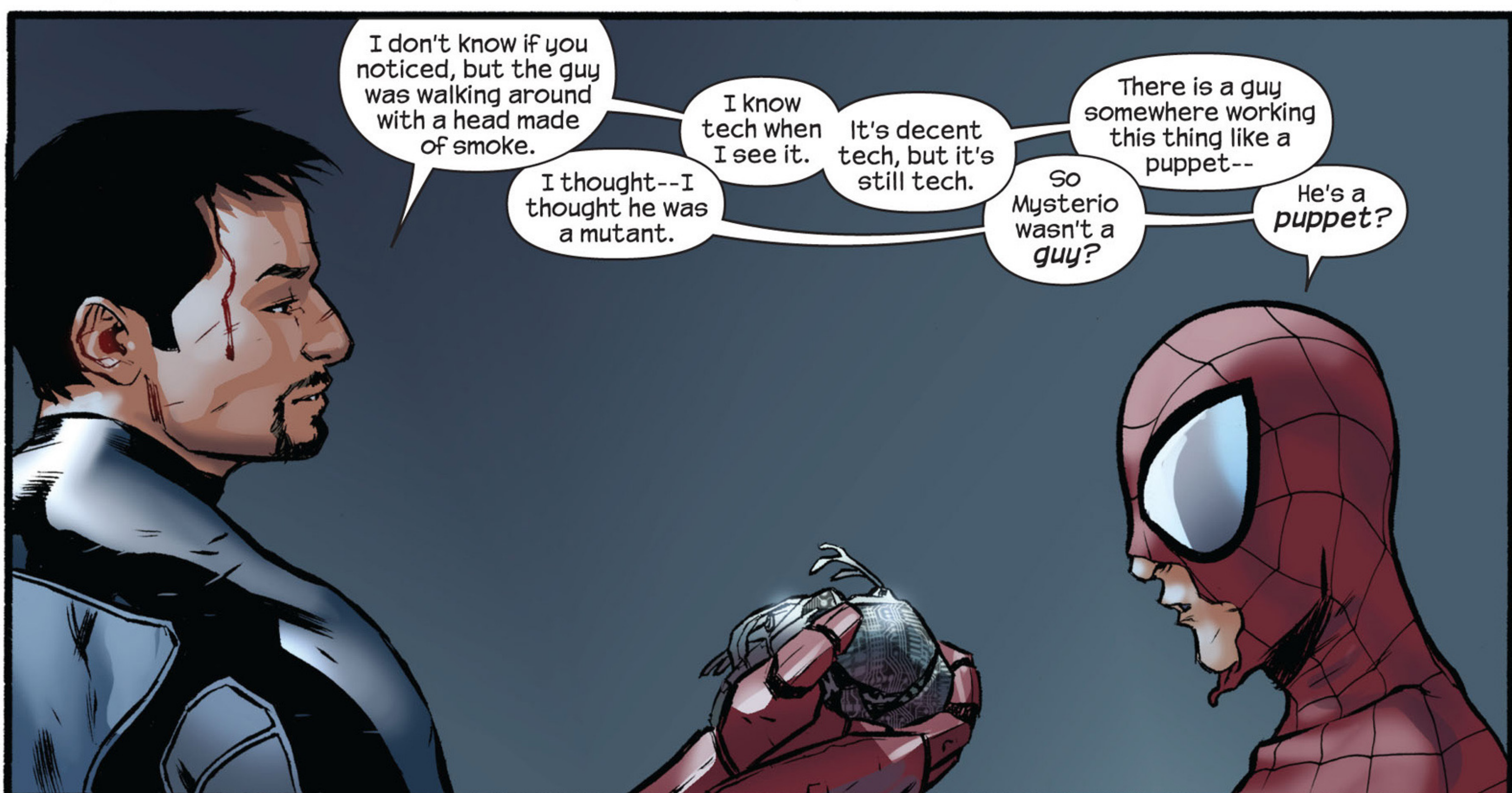
What the what?

I knew it.

Knew what?

I knew that guy was using a piece of solenderie tech.

How did you know that?



I don't know if you noticed, but the guy was walking around with a head made of smoke.

I know tech when I see it.

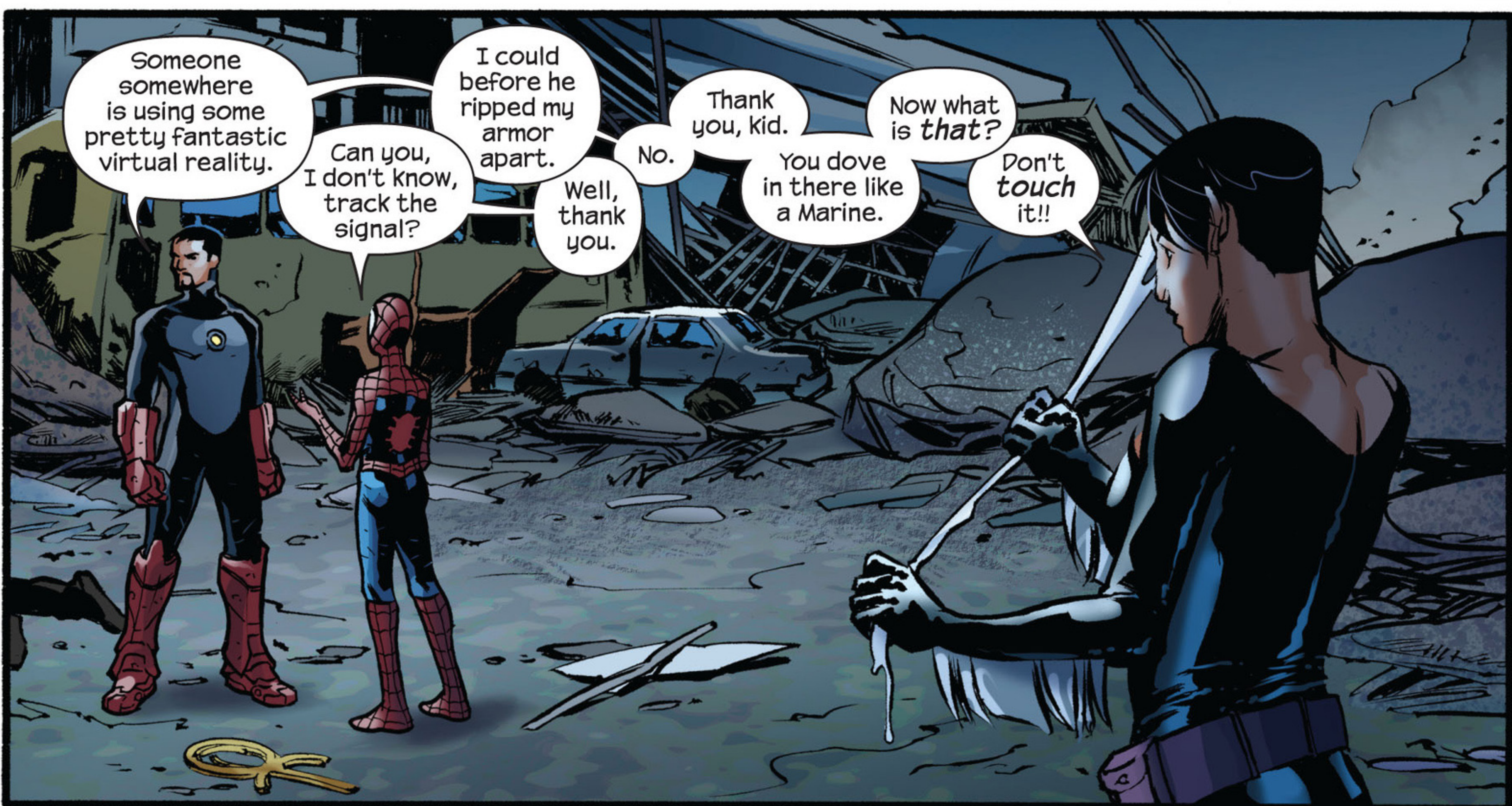
It's decent tech, but it's still tech.

There is a guy somewhere working this thing like a puppet--

He's a puppet?

So Mysterio wasn't a guy?

I thought--I thought he was a mutant.



Someone somewhere is using some pretty fantastic virtual reality.

Can you, I don't know, track the signal?

I could before he ripped my armor apart.

No.

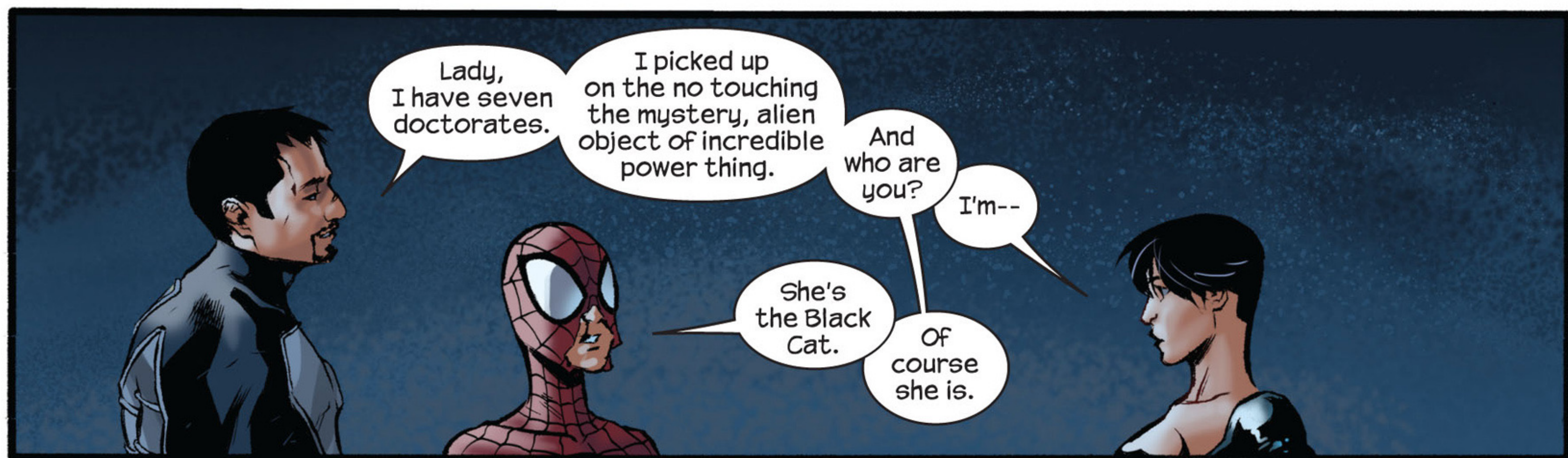
Well, thank you.

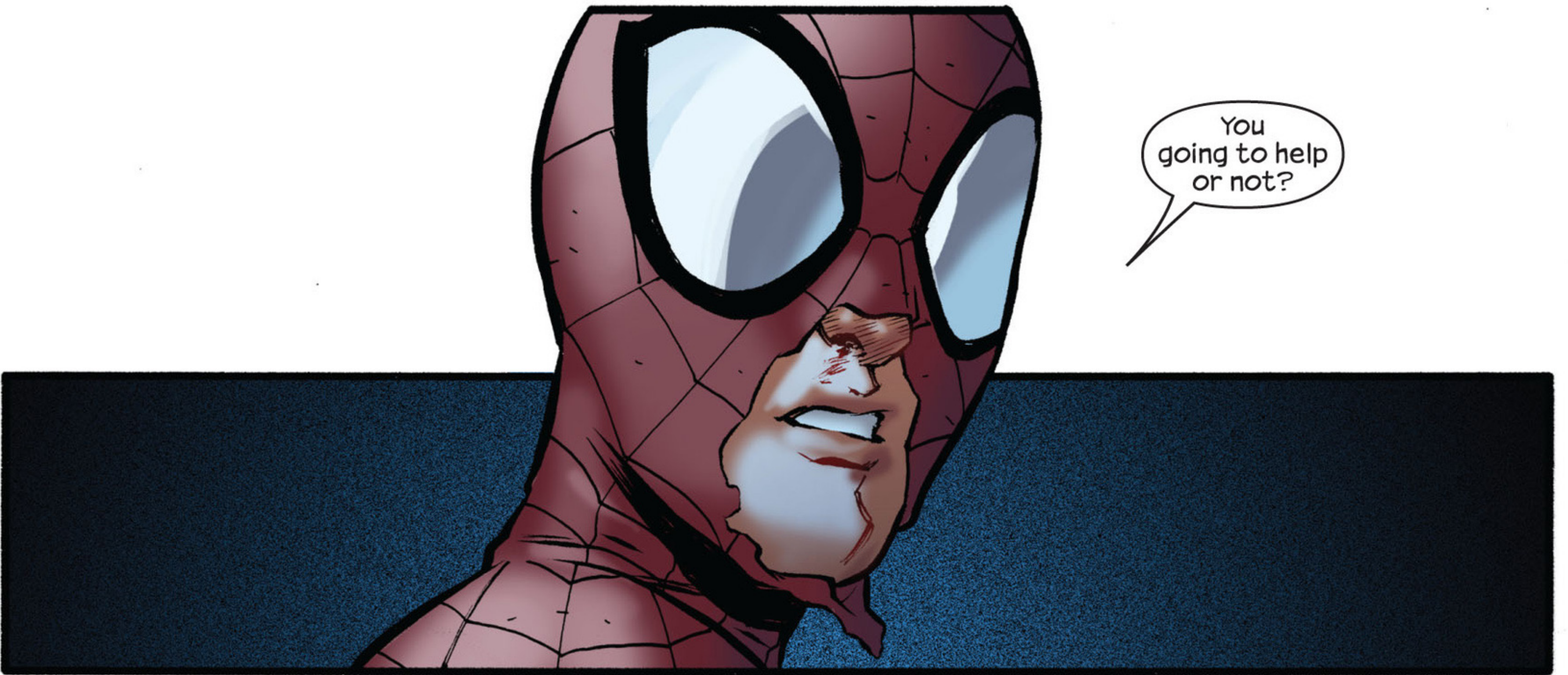
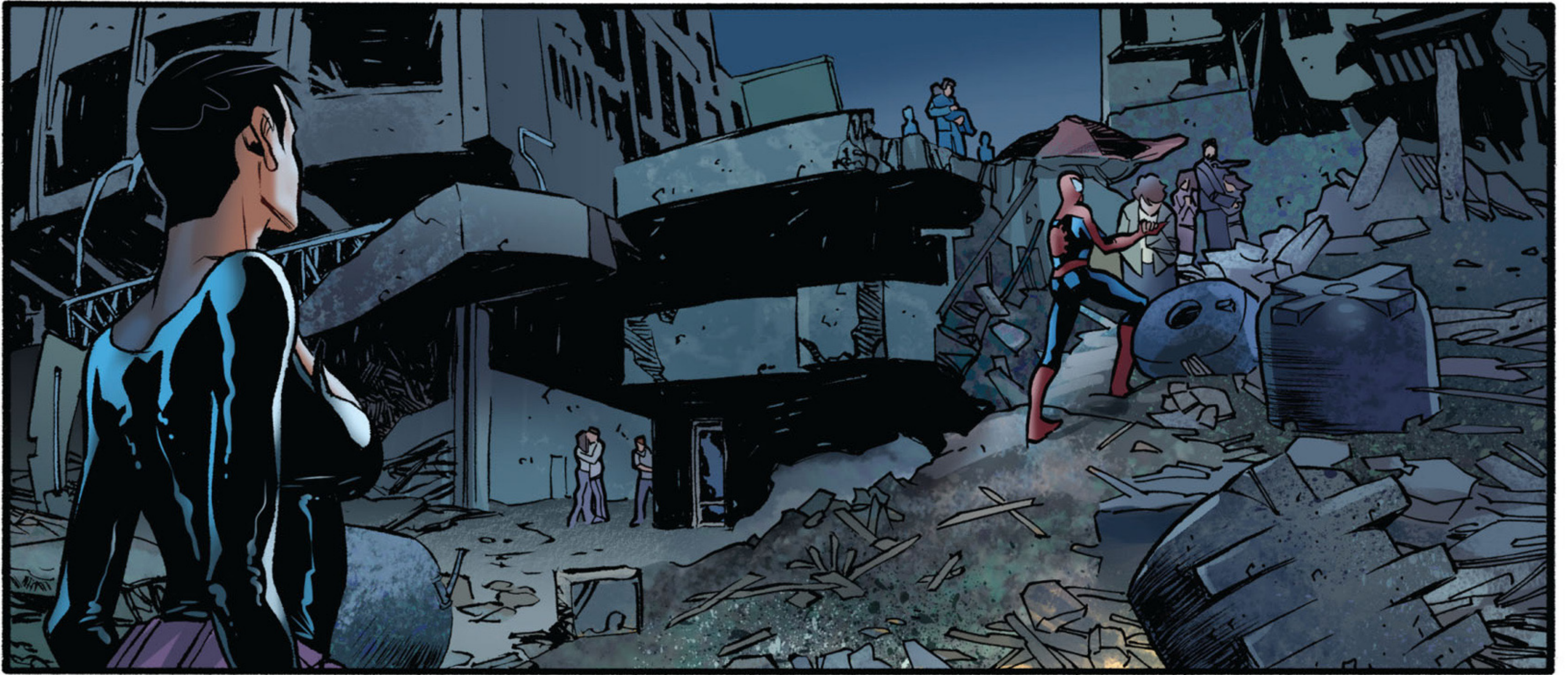
Thank you, kid.

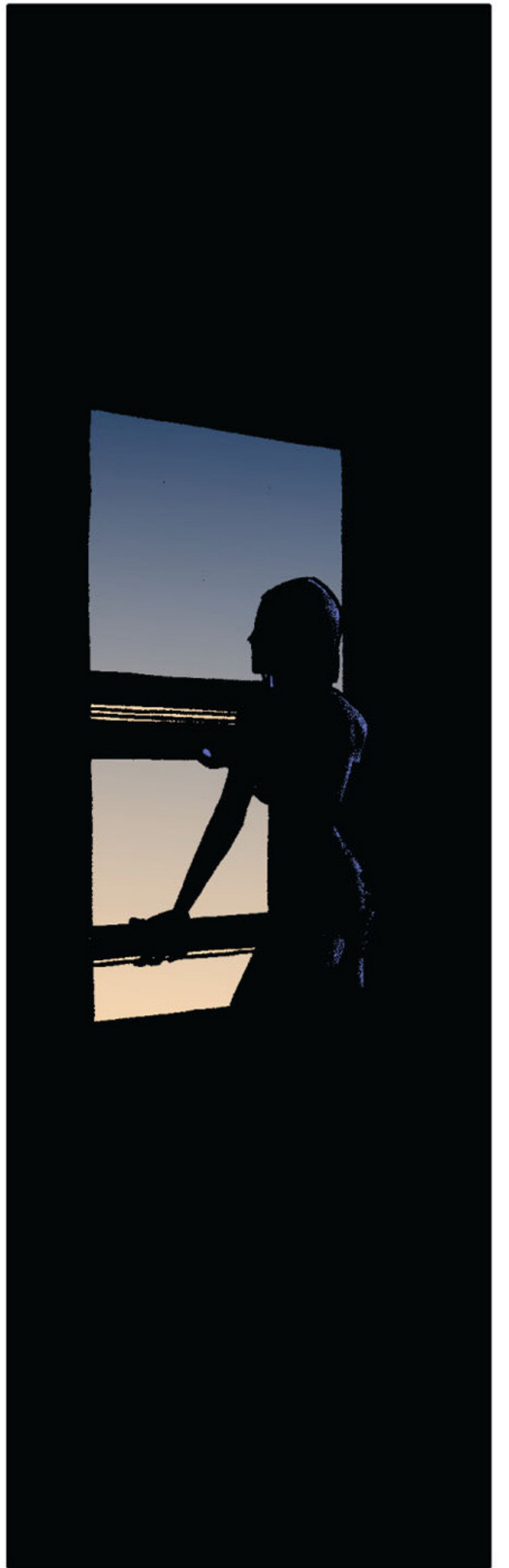
You dove in there like a Marine.

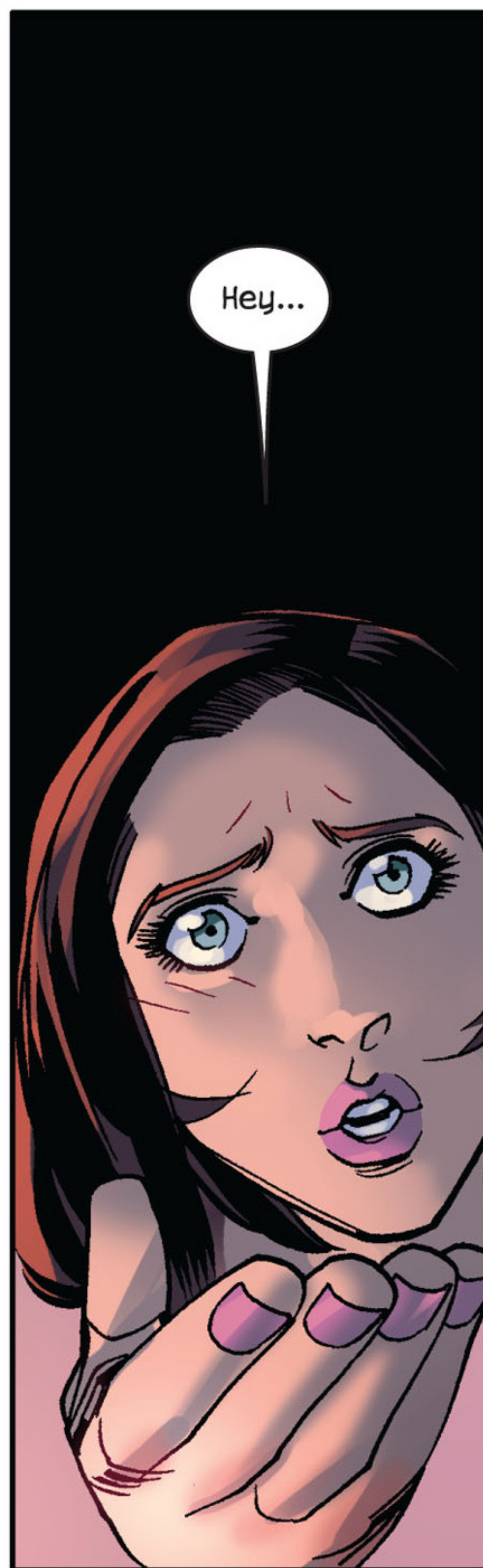
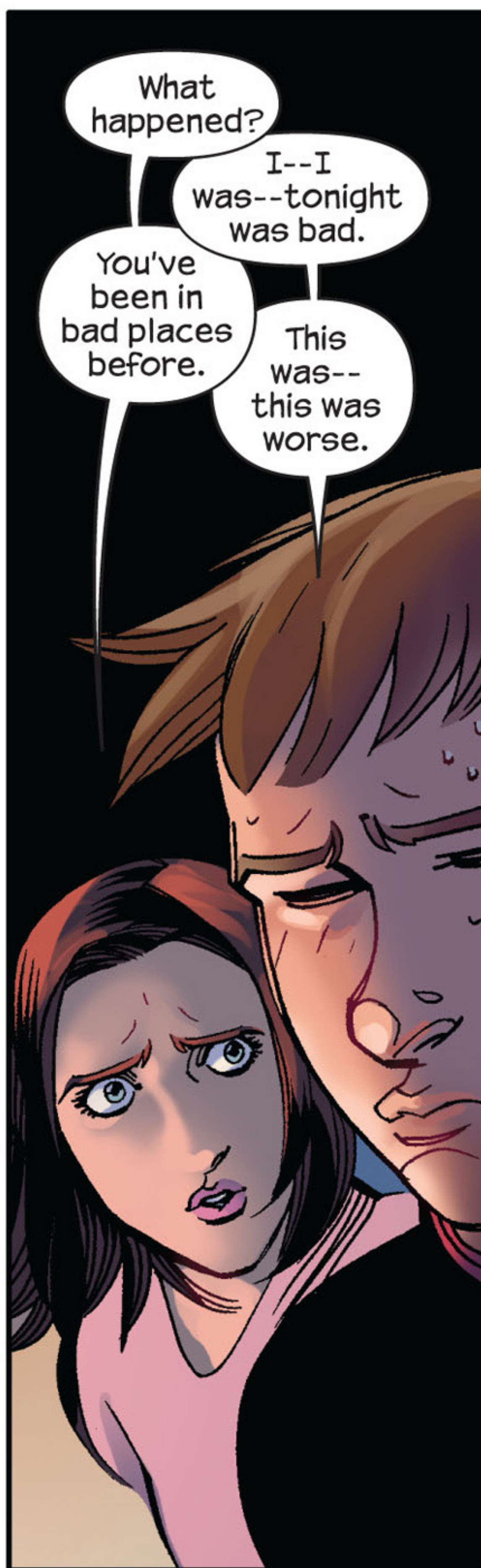
Now what is that?

Don't touch it!!









LaFente
GOODBYE!

 **Next Issue: Happy Birthday Peter Parker!**

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